

# THE MILITANT

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— PAGES 4, 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 56/NO. 44 DECEMBER 4, 1992

## Trade pact increases rivalry with France

BY SARA LOBMAN

Tensions deepened between Paris and other members of the European Community (EC) this week, when French prime minister Pierre Bérégovoy called a new farm trade agreement between the United States and the European Community "unacceptable." Bérégovoy said the agreement posed a "grave threat" to French farmers. He did not say whether his government would veto it.

The tentative pact was reached November 20 when most EC members blinked and gave in to Washington's threats to impose a 200 percent tax on \$300 million worth of European exports if the EC countries did not sharply reduce their production of oilseeds.

The agreement and the French protest are the latest episode in a conflict that threatens to develop into a full-scale trade war. The controversy over oilseed production has been one of the major barriers in the current round of General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) talks, which began in Uruguay in 1986. GATT was set up in 1948 by the representatives of the most powerful capitalist ruling classes to negotiate agreements governing international trade. Today more than 100 countries are part of its deliberations.

The new agreement would require Europe to reduce the acreage reserved for growing oilseeds by 15 percent next year and by at least 10 percent permanently.

U.S. officials estimate that this is the equivalent of cutting production anywhere from 3.1 to 4.3 million tons.

Oilseeds, which include soybeans, sunflower seeds, and rapeseed, are used for cooking oils as well as in animal feeds and industrial lubricants.

The agreement also requires the European Community to reduce subsidized exports of grain by 21 percent over the next six years.

Subsidies are government money paid to agricultural producers. This allows farm

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## California rally boosts Novack Fund

BY DAVE PRINCE

SAN FRANCISCO — The campaign effort to meet the George Novack Reconstruction Fund goal of raising \$166,900 pledged by supporters by December 1 took a big step forward this week — \$22,500 was collected, bringing the total in hand to \$108,900. Completing the fund, in full and on time, is necessary to meet the expenses of the final stages of reconstructing the new bindery of the Pathfinder printshop in New York. The projection is for the bindery to be fully operational by mid-December.

The printshop in New York produces Pathfinder books, the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, and the socialist periodicals *The Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* meeting the growing interest in and opportunities to expand the circulation of revolutionary literature around the world.

The fund received a big boost at a public forum in San Francisco on Saturday, Novem-

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## U.S., European warships blockade Yugoslavia

BY NAOMI CRAINE  
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Western European Union, the European Community's military arm, ordered their warships in the Adriatic Sea to carry out a full naval blockade against Yugoslavia November 20. The action followed a November 19 United Nations Security Council resolution calling for the blockade to enforce existing trade sanctions against the Yugoslav federation of Serbia and Montenegro.

The warships are authorized to stop, search, and turn back to other ports merchant vessels accused of violating the UN embargo, and to fire warning shots if the ships do not comply. These powers are the same as those used during the U.S.-led blockade against Iraq leading up to the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

The trade embargo against Serbia and Montenegro was imposed in May by the UN Security Council, with the alleged aim of stopping Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since then, U.S. and other warships, under the command of NATO or the Western European Union, have been patrolling the waters of the Adriatic off the coast of Yugoslavia. But until last week they were not authorized to halt and search ships suspected of breaking the embargo.

A NATO statement said that now "all ships entering or leaving the territorial waters of the former Yugoslavia will be halted to inspect and verify their cargo and destination."

NATO announced it will "coordinate and cooperate" actions with the Western European Union to enforce the blockade.

There are five Western European Union warships already in the area, together with seven from NATO, including the U.S. guided-missile frigate *Halyburton*.

The main reason for the involvement of the Western European Union is that France, although a member of NATO, does not par-

ticipate in its military command.

Paris has been pushing the buildup and use of the Western European Union as an alternative to the military dominance of NATO in western Europe. The French rulers

belong to NATO. During a recent congress, the opposition Social Democratic Party dropped previous objections to amend the constitution and allow German soldiers to take part in UN missions.



British army vehicles arrive in Croatia. The number of 'peacekeeping' troops will reach 22,500 by December as Washington and other imperialist powers enforce UN sanctions.

have been seeking to use their involvement in the Yugoslav conflict to advance this goal.

German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel complained, "For German foreign and defense policy, the fact that we cannot participate fully in these operations is unfortunate." The German destroyer *Hamburg* is part of the NATO force, but is barred by current German law from doing more than asking merchant ships to identify themselves and their cargo. German gunners are not allowed to fire shots. Bonn is seeking to expand the role its troops can play outside countries that

The UN resolution imposing the naval blockade also calls on the neighboring countries of Romania and Bulgaria to enforce the embargo along the Danube River, which flows through those countries into Serbia. Romanian officials say they have begun to inspect shipments along the Danube in an attempt to enforce the sanctions.

### 'Sanctions punish the people'

"The sanctions and the blockade bring pressure on the ordinary people, not on

Continued on Page 12

## Iowa prison hearing shows cracks in board's efforts to deny Curtis parole

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

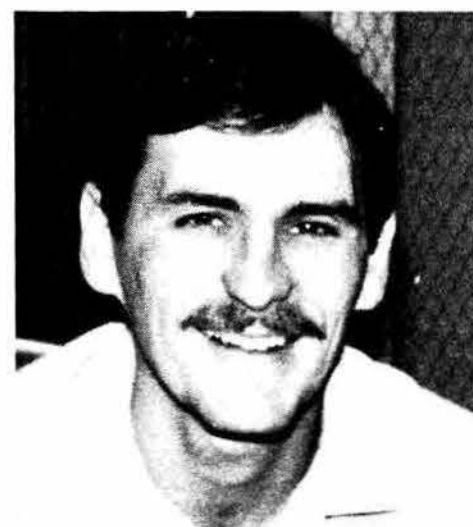
FORT MADISON, Iowa — The first crack in the Iowa Board of Parole's refusal to consider Mark Curtis for any advancement in prison status or for release was registered at the November 17 hearing here. The hearing, held at the John Bennett Correctional Center where he is imprisoned, was the fourth since Curtis, a union and political activist, was framed up by police in March 1988 on false charges of sexual abuse and burglary.

"I was not paroled today," Curtis explained after the hearing, "nor was I advanced to a minimum-security prison or into a gate pass or work release program. But for the first time I saw some motion, some cracks in the prison wall."

"This is the time to turn up the heat in the fight for my release, to push to open further the cracks we saw at the hearing," Curtis urged his supporters.

The cumulative pressure of the international campaign for Curtis's release, his political activities and exemplary personal conduct in prison, the victory scored last January in his lawsuit challenging his brutal beating by Des Moines police on the night

of his arrest, and the length of time he has served behind bars — more than four years — all combined to make it more difficult for the parole board to justify its refusal to release Curtis. The board has previously refused even to consider anything short of Curtis going through the prison Sexual Of-



Mark Curtis

Militant/Margaret Jayko

fenders Treatment Program (SOTP), which requires prisoners to admit they are guilty and undergo "behavior modification."

For the first time, however, at this hearing members of the parole board were not unanimous in insisting that Curtis either enter SOTP or else serve his full sentence.

The hearing was conducted by board members Joanne Lorence, an attorney; Robert Jackson, a former construction union official and foreman; and Kittie Knauer, recently appointed by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad.

Curtis's hearing was attended by a delegation of activists supporting his release, including Bill Kutmus, his attorney; Edna Griffin, long time civil rights activist; Jane Curtis, Mark's mother; Hazel Zimmerman, treasurer of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee; John Studer, committee coordinator and representing his union, United Auto Workers Local 270, at the hearing; defense committee leader Priscilla Schenk; and Natalie Bombaro, a committee activist.

Piri Thomas, noted Puerto Rican poet and author, and Stuart Adams, representing the National Conference of Black Lawyers

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## Crisis hits Latin American youth

According to a United Nations report, nearly 5 million of the 50 million adolescents and youth under 25, who are part of the working-age population of Latin America, are unemployed.

They make up 53 percent of the total number of jobless in the region. Most young people who are employed work in the lowest paid jobs, according to the report, which also gives statistics on the extent of child labor in Latin America. In Honduras, for example, 12-year-old to 14-year-old children make up 26 percent of the labor force; in El Salvador this figure is 14 percent.

## Grocery chain exploits child labor

Food Lion Inc., a supermarket chain, is facing charges for more than 1,400 violations of the federal child labor law. Most charges stem from teenagers working around hazardous equipment such as meat slicers and package bailers. The United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) has also accused the company of routinely requiring its employees to work extra hours without pay.

The Belgian-owned company is the fastest-growing supermarket chain in the United States, with 989 stores in 14 states employing 24,000 full-time workers and 28,000 part-time workers. It was recently the subject of a special TV news report, which documented the company practice of selling spoiled meat and fish.

## Chile's former top cop on trial

The first trial for human rights violations in Chile since former dictator Augusto Pinochet gave up the reigns of government to civilian figures in 1990, began November 11.

Retired Gen. Manuel Contreras, secret-police chief during the bloodiest years of the dictatorship, has been charged with the murder of Orlando Letelier, foreign minister of the late Chilean president Salvador Allende. During Pinochet's 16-year rule, thousands of people were executed for political reasons, died under torture, or were "disappeared." Letelier and his secretary were killed by a car bomb in Washington, D.C. in 1976.



Some 2,500 people gathered in Kyoto, Japan, September 27 to protest the dispatch of Japan's Self Defense Force to Cambodia. The demonstrators, who included members of unions and peace groups from different parts of the country, made a human chain surrounding the Okubo military base.

## Australia talks on native lands

Aborigines and government leaders in Australia will begin a series of talks on land ownership following a high court decision to recognize native title to Australian territory. The court overturned the legal maxim that has held sway for more than 200 years; Australia was allegedly uninhabited when the British settled it. The judges found that the Meriam people from the Murray Islands were entitled "as against the whole world to possession, occupation, use and enjoyment" of the land. The Meriam people have waged a ten-year battle to win legal ownership of the land.

## Italy and Cuba sign pact

The Italian and Cuban governments signed an agreement under which the Italian state electrical enterprise ENEL would co-operate with the Electrical Union of Cuba.

The agreement would include technical advice as well as research on building new electrical plants on the island.

## Cuban milk production drops

Cuba will produce 45 percent less milk this year than in 1990, announced Carlos Lage, Cuban secretary of the Council of Ministers, during a speech broadcast over national television on the economic situation facing the island. The shortfall is due to lack of fodder and other animal feed, he said. In 1990 a total of 740 million liters of milk were produced, but this year production barely reached 335 million. Lage reported a sharp decrease in the amount of meat production as well.

## Japan pursues trade with Iran

Japanese foreign minister Michio Watanabe said his government would not reconsider its decision to provide aid to Iran, despite Washington's current efforts to curb shipments of high-tech equipment to Iran. Tehran's massive effort to rebuild its economy provides a potentially lucrative market for Japanese industry starving for orders, reported the *Washington Post*. On the other hand, Iran's oil is critical for Japanese industry. Tokyo plans to lend the Iranian government some \$300 million to help finance a new hydroelectric plant.

## Profits of Japan's top firms drop

Matsushita, Japan's biggest producer of consumer electronics, announced a 65.6 percent drop in profits while the country's two leading watch makers, Seiko and Casio, suffered a 26.4 and 24 percent drop in profits respectively for the first half of the year.

## London rail workers to strike

Members of the RMT rail union voted

November 17 to take indefinite strike action against the London Underground commuter trains to protest pay reductions and attacks on working conditions.

Union officials say they hope to be able to follow the coal unions in winning public support for a strike against layoffs. The union says London Underground's plan will cut 5,000 of the 21,000 jobs on the commuter railroad and reduce the wages of 30 percent of the workers.

## Pretoria uses dirty tricks against African National Congress

A government-appointed investigative panel reported that the South African Defense Force carried out a dirty-tricks campaign against the African National Congress (ANC), using a convicted murderer and other criminals to discredit Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing. The report noted that the dirty-tricks team had access to police department computer records, immigration files, licensing authorities, voter information rolls, credit bureaus, revenue office files and an independent group of telephone bugging experts.

The disclosure, which comes less than a week after revelations in court of a separate anti-ANC disinformation campaign launched last April by the army, has cast serious doubts on President F. W. deKlerk's repeated assertions that the military does not engage in partisan politics.

Following the disclosure, the ANC called on the government to immediately make public all covert military operations. "It is clear that, despite protestation to the contrary from the most senior levels of government," an ANC statement said, "the dirty war waged against the ANC from within the state and security apparatus continues unabated."

## Lithuania elections

In recent parliamentary elections in Lithuania, the Democratic Labor Party headed by Algirdas Brazauskas, won a majority of the seats over the ruling Sajudis Party. Brazauskas led the former Lithuanian Communist Party. The republic, which won independence from the former Soviet Union in 1990, is going through an economic crisis with a sharp fall in industrial production and high inflation.

## Panamanians reject referendum

By a 2-1 margin, Panamanians rejected a package of 58 constitutional reforms supported by President Guillermo Endara. Only 40 percent of the country's registered voters turned out to the polls. Endara was sworn in as president by U.S. diplomats at a U.S. military base in the Panama Canal zone shortly after Washington's troops invaded Panama on December 20, 1989.

The most debated of the proposed amendments was one that would have prohibited Panama from having an army, effectively making permanent the situation that has existed since U.S. military forces disbanded the Panama Defense Force after the 1989 invasion.

— SELVA NEBBIA

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## The Militant

Closing news date: November 23, 1992

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Published weekly except for next to last week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040; Modem, 924-6048; Telex, 497-4278.

Pacific edition printed in Wanganui, New Zealand, by Wanganui Newspapers, Limited.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$45, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (air-mail), send \$80. Barbados: Send \$75Bds for

one-year subscription to P.O. Box 891, Bridgetown, Barbados. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Belgium: BF 3,000 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 4,400 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kroner for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, Railway Square, Sydney 2000, Australia. Philippines, Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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# 'L.A. Eight' deportation hearing opens

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — In early 1987, seven Palestinians and the Kenyan spouse of one, were arrested and charged with terrorist activity. The case of the "L.A. Eight" had begun.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) held that the eight should be deported for violating the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, an immigration statute crafted to rid the country of "undesirable aliens."

The INS accused the eight of violating the statute by allegedly giving support to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) which, the INS asserted, advocated "the economic, international, and governmental doctrines of world communism."

In 1989, a federal judge declared this section of the McCarran act unconstitutional. He ruled that noncitizens are entitled to the same free speech guarantees as citizens.

Later, an appeals court suspended this landmark ruling. It held that the immigration proceedings must be completed before the constitutional issues could be decided by the courts.

Then, in 1990, Congress rewrote that section of the McCarran Act. The revision was designed to create the false impression that people could no longer be deported for their ideas, only for actions.

## Deportation for "terrorism"

The principle deportable offense specified by Congress was engaging in "terrorism." The INS dropped the charge of advocating the ideas of "world communism" in the L.A. Eight case. Instead, it charged two of the eight — Michel Shehadeh and Khader Hamide — with having "engaged in terrorist activity." The two were singled out because they are legal permanent U.S. residents and must be stripped of that status to be deported.

The remaining six, who are here on visitor visas, were charged with technical but deportable violations — not taking sufficient courses while on a student visa in one case, overstaying visas, etc.

The charge against Hamide and Shehadeh is based on the allegation that they gave material support to the PFLP, an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Defense lawyers explain that the State Department position is not legally binding. But if an immigration judge rules that the PFLP is terrorist, and this is upheld by the federal courts, it would have the force of law.

For this reason, the case against Shehadeh and Hamide has been divided into two segments. In the first, the Justice Department is presenting evidence purporting to prove that the PFLP is in fact terrorist. It will then seek to establish that the two defendants "abetted" the organization.

This could have profound legal consequences. If Hamide and Shehadeh are ordered deported it will mean they are being penalized for doing something that was declared illegal after they assertedly did it.

This would open the door to the victimization of countless other immigrants who have extended solidarity to the Palestinian liberation forces. And the way would be paved for targeting immigrant supporters of freedom fighters in any part of the globe.

## Hearings on "terrorism" begin

The hearing for Shehadeh and Hamide has begun and is being conducted by Immigration judge Bruce Einhorn, a former Justice Department prosecutor.

The INS does not claim that the two committed any acts of terrorism. Judge Einhorn will rule whether they will be de-



Julie Nyungugi Mungai, one of the "L.A. Eight," talking to the press in 1987. Behind her are four of the other Palestinian activists targeted for deportation.

ported solely on the basis of the accusation that they "abetted" the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which the government asserts is terrorist.

To verify its charge against the PFLP the government is calling on two assertedly expert witnesses on terrorism; one an Israeli professor and government agent, the other a U.S. professor.

Hamide and Shehadeh flatly deny any involvement in terrorism. They freely acknowledge that they are partisans of Palestinian liberation and have engaged in fund-raising activity to advance that cause.

They will testify that their fund-raising has been focused mainly on support to social programs of the liberation movement — building schools, day-care centers, and the like in Israeli-ruled West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Hearsay evidence admitted

From the outset, Judge Einhorn has been quick to remind the defense that they are involved in a hearing, not a trial. The defendants, he notes, don't face prison, only deportation. In a hearing, the right to due process is more limited than in a courtroom. Hearsay evidence, which is barred in most

criminal cases, is admissible.

This is no abstract legal point. The government claim that the PFLP is "terrorist" is based almost exclusively on such hearsay evidence as newspaper clippings — evidence which, by its very nature, can't be confronted and cross-examined.

The opening INS witness is Ariel Merari, an Israeli professor who lectures on international terrorism and advises the Israeli government on combating it. Discussing the numerous asserted instances of terrorism which he laid at the doorstep of the PFLP, Merari conceded under cross-examination that all but one of these were based on hearsay evidence.

He claimed that there was one incident that he had direct knowledge of. But, he said this occurred while he was on tour of military duty and, therefore, he was barred by Israeli security regulations from discussing it.

The legal team for the defense includes Leonard Weinglass, a veteran civil liberties attorney, David Cole of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Mark Vander Hout of the National Lawyers Guild. They are being aided by Paul Hoffman, legal director of the Southern California American Civil Liberties Union.

Because the lawyers on both sides are all from outside Los Angeles, the hearing sessions are being adapted to their various schedules. The hearing opened October 27 and recessed after six days. There will be further sessions in December and then a recess until February. It's assumed that the hearings will go well beyond then.

To obtain information, or to contribute to the defense, contact: Committee for Justice to Stop the McCarran-Walter Act Deportations, P.O. Box 4631 Los Angeles, CA 90051 Tel. (213) 413-2935.

# Australian military helps to protect big copper interests in Bougainville

BY PAUL GREY AND BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia — Secret Australian army involvement in an offensive by Papua New Guinea (PNG) troops against secessionist forces on the island of Bougainville was exposed recently on an Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio program, "Background Briefing."

The military offensive, which began October 22, has targeted the island's provincial capital, Arawa, and the site of the giant Australian-owned Panguna copper mine, which are strongholds of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA).

On November 9 an Australian "civilian" pilot flying a PNG Defence Force helicopter was wounded while on a mission in the Arawa vicinity.

The Bougainville war began in November 1988 when traditional landholders launched a campaign against the copper mine, protesting environmental damage and demanding an increase in the 1.25 percent share of the mine's earnings that they received as compensation.

The brutal response by the Papua New Guinea police and army escalated the fighting. Following the forced withdrawal of PNG troops from the island in March 1990, and despite the imposition of a tight blockade on the rebel-held territory, the independent Republic of Bougainville was declared and a broad-based interim government established. While no government in the world has recognized this republic, representatives of the interim government have been able to function in the neighboring Solomon Islands.

## Australian involvement in offensive

Over the past 18 months, a force of several hundred PNG troops has reestablished control over much of north and south Bougainville, and the current offensive aims to break the back of the independence movement. Australian military involvement has been central to this operation.

Australian government-supplied military helicopters, flown by contract pilots from Australia and New Zealand, have been used as gunships against the BRA and villages in Bougainville. The Australian government maintains the fiction that these are not gun-

ships because of an agreement that machine guns not be bolted down on the aircraft. On at least one occasion they have been used to dump the bodies of executed prisoners at sea.

The Australian government has also turned a blind eye to the blockade imposed by Australian-supplied patrol boats, which has virtually cut off the island of Bougainville from the outside world and caused considerable suffering in the rebel-held territory.

Moses Havini, representative of the Bougainville interim government in Australia, estimates that "5,000 people have died of preventable diseases as a result of the blockade," out of a total population of 250,000.

The Australian-based Humanitarian Aid for Bougainville organization has been trying to deliver badly needed medical supplies through the blockade to central Bougainville.

The "Background Briefing" program confirmed that Australian development aid money was being used to train mobile PNG police and army units in counterinsurgency warfare. It also revealed that an Australian Defence Force advisor was on the ground in Bougainville training PNG forces in helicopter operations and jungle warfare tactics.

## Australia denies role

The Australian government has consistently denied this military involvement. The minister for trade and overseas development, John Kerin, told the "Background Briefing" program, "There's a lot of jungle up there. I honestly don't know what you're talking about."

Havini commented in a November 5 phone interview, "The Australian government is acting just like it did in the Vietnam War. It is doing everything except pulling the trigger. Forty PNG soldiers were trained in Queensland, Australia, and dispatched to Bougainville."

"The PNG forces miscalculated. They assumed that their October offensive would be a clean sweep. But they experienced the opposite, as the BRA put up a formidable fight," he said.

In response to the Australian government's role in the fighting, the government of the Solomon Islands has banned Royal Australian Air Force surveillance flights

from its airspace and canceled a scheduled visit by a Royal Australian Navy patrol boat. The Solomon Islands government holds the Australian government partly responsible for a raid by PNG troops into Solomon territory in early September that left two Solomon Islanders dead.

While the fighting in Bougainville continues amid a news blackout, the crisis of the central Papua New Guinea government has deepened. The premiers of Papua New Guinea's four other island provinces met to discuss secession after the new prime minister, Paias Wingti, proposed abolishing the provincial government, allegedly because of financial mismanagement.

Bob Aiken is a member of the Food Preservers Union in Sydney, Australia.

## —CALENDAR—

### BRITAIN

#### Sheffield

**Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today.** A day of activities hosted by the Sheffield Pathfinder bookshop to celebrate the publication by Pathfinder Press of *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today* by Mary-Alice Waters. Featuring: Slide show on "Socialism or the Market" by Julian Newall, a healthworker recently returned from Cuba; Speech on "The Relevance of Che's Ideas to the Fight for Socialism Today" by Rose Knight, railworker recently returned from Cuba; Video showing of "Cuban Workers Celebrate May Day"; Photographic exhibition on life of workers and farmers in Cuba today. Sat., Nov. 28, program 4 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Tel: 0742-765070.

### SWEDEN

#### Stockholm

**The Road Forward in South Africa.** Speaker: Andile Yawa, African National Congress Youth League. Sat., Nov., 28, 4 p.m. SIDA U-Forum Birer Jarlsg. 61 T-bana Radmang. Sponsors: ABF Stockholm, Africagroups Stockholm, Swedish-Cuban Solidarity Group Stockholm, Social-democratic Youth Organization Stockholm State, Young Left Stockholm, National Student Organization at Folk high schools, Communist League.

## 'Militant' Prisoner Subscription Fund

The Militant special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



# California rally boosts fund collection

Continued from front page  
ber 21 on the real meaning of the 1992 elections that featured a talk by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Over \$6,300 was collected from the 180 participants who came from the San Francisco Bay Area and from Los Angeles; Santa Cruz; Salt Lake City; Portland; Seattle; and Vancouver, British Columbia. Supporters of the fund from Salt Lake City and San Francisco set the pace with both areas going over their goals.

Paul Montauk, coordinator of the fund in San Francisco, explained, "The key to our success is that we systematically organized to make sure that everyone who may want to contribute was asked." Young people

and fighters who are newly attracted to revolutionary ideas and long-time friends of the communist movement have contributed \$6,000 toward San Francisco's goal.

The following morning participants met and exchanged experiences from their areas in organizing the fight to complete the *Militant* subscription drive and the George Novack Reconstruction Fund.

Ove Aspoy, one of the directors of the reconstruction project, made the fund appeal at the San Francisco meeting.

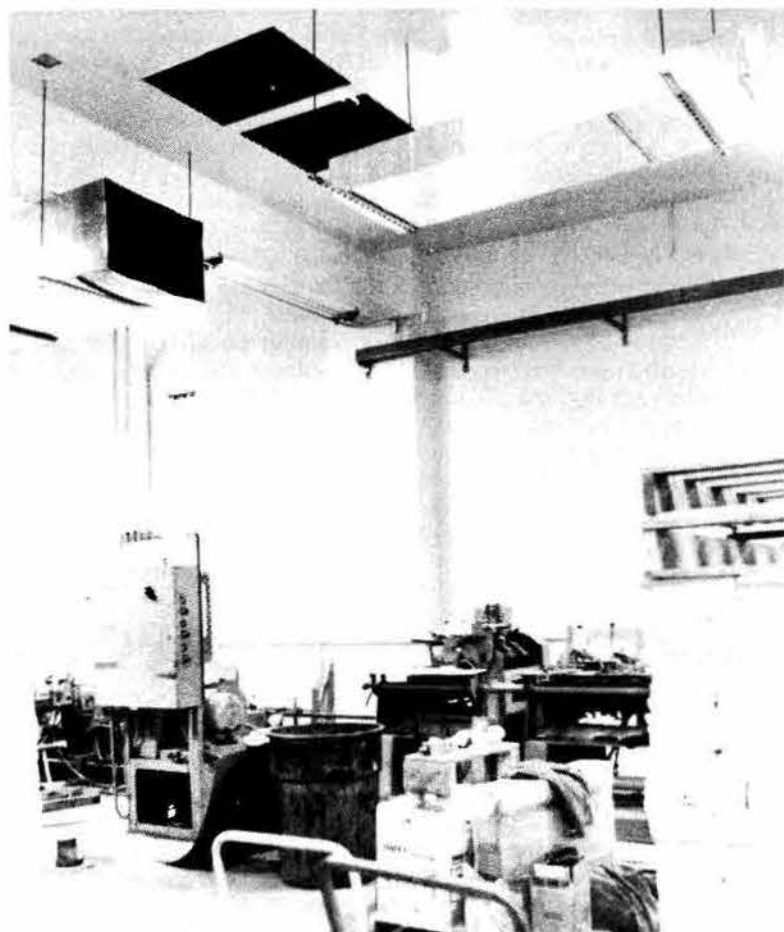
Aspoy explained that the New York celebration to help inaugurate the newly reconstructed section of the Pathfinder printshop also posed what is necessary to make the final

push to complete the work. "The project has run out of money and every dollar pledged to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund is already earmarked for the big expenses needed to make the new bindery operational," Aspoy said. "For example, when the heating and air conditioning units, essential for productivity and quality printing, arrive we have to hand over a check for \$30,000. Completing the installation will cost another \$20,000. In addition, we need to order the dust collector for the binder and the scrap paper collectors for the three-knife book trimmer. These are some of the bills we have to pay before we close down the project.

"Every contribution has helped make the difference," Aspoy emphasized. "The large amounts raised for the Pathfinder Reconstruction project over the last year and a half — \$1,676,000 — is the collective effort of many individuals. Large figures can sometimes hide this fact. A total of 175 people made contributions of \$1,000 and more to the International Expansion Fund. And each contribution — whether it was \$1,000 or the \$310,000 that came from 31 railworkers who took job buyouts or got contract signing bonuses — helped make the difference. We would not have gotten here without every one of those contributions."

It is important that everyone see that every dollar contributed to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund including new pledges and increases from those in a position to do so — from \$5 to \$500 and higher — is what will make the difference in completing this stage of the project, Aspoy said.

The campaign spirit which got under way this week is exactly what is needed to meet the big challenge still ahead to collect the \$58,000 in outstanding pledges over the next week and a half.



Substantial work remains to be done and paid for in Pathfinder printshop. New heating and air conditioning unit being installed above. Militant/Sara Lobman

\$150,000

\$108,965

	PLEGGED	PAID	% PAID <small>Should be 93%</small>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
NEW HAVEN	\$500	550	110
SAN FRANCISCO	12,530	14,626	117
SALT LAKE CITY	6,500	6,529	101
WASHINGTON, D.C.	4,950	4,005	81
DETROIT	7,000	5,400	78
ST. LOUIS	6,500	4,633	72
NEWARK	11,000	7,351	67
LOS ANGELES	15,000	9,862	66
CHICAGO	6,500	4,115	64
SEATTLE	6,000	3,785	64
PITTSBURGH	4,500	2,660	60
TWIN CITIES	9,865	5,745	59
CLEVELAND	4,200	2,450	59
BOSTON	6,000	3,381	57
GREENSBORO	3,000	1,705	57
PHILADELPHIA	4,000	2,212	56
NEW YORK CITY	15,000	8,118	55
BALTIMORE	4,500	2,425	54
ATLANTA	5,500	2,775	51
HOUSTON	6,000	2,830	48
MORGANTOWN	3,000	1,390	47
MIAMI	3,250	1,010	32
DES MOINES	3,500	1,092	32
BIRMINGHAM	3,000	380	13
CINCINNATI	1,000	100	10
PORTLAND	750	0	0
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>153,545</b>	<b>99,129</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>2,707</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$166,776</b>	<b>108,965</b>	<b>73</b>

## I pledge...

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$ other

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

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Send to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund,  
406 West Street, New York, NY 10014

# Unionists rally in support of Trinity strikers

BY DENISE McINERNEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — "This rally today is to show that whatever it takes, the labor movement will be here for the Trinity strikers," said Richard Jones, president of the Jefferson County Labor Council, in welcoming people to a rally at the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226 union hall. Some 200 strikers, family members, and supporters gathered here November 21 to hear messages of solidarity from unions throughout the area.

Workers have been on strike at the Trinity Industries Co. rail car plant here since September 19. The union's major demands are a wage increase, affordable health insurance, and the reinstatement of 41 union members who have been fired for alleged strike violations. Members and officials of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), International Association of Machinists, United Auto Workers, and many other unions attended the event. They were joined by representatives of half a dozen locals of the USWA, including workers from USX in Fairfield and Gulf States Steel in Gadsden.

UMWA District 20 president Tom Youngblood presented the striking local with a check for \$2,200. "One thing I've learned in the labor movement," he told the crowd, "you've got to be militant and stand up for your rights. The UMWA is behind you 100 percent...anytime we're called upon, we'll be there to support you."

## Unionists reach out for solidarity

Support for the strike continues to come in from other unions and the community. Members of two USWA locals at USX took up collections in the plant recently and do-

nated \$2,100 to the strike fund.

USWA Local 9226 president James Allen and staff representative Billy McColeman appeared on a local radio talk show November 19. They explained the issues of the strike and responded to questions from listeners. Every caller was supportive of the strike, reflecting the mood of many in the community.

Strikers have been reaching out to residents of Bessemer and Birmingham with petitions protesting the harassment of strikers by the Bessemer police and the fact that cops are escorting scabs in and out of the plant every day. Over 700 signatures have been collected so far, and some members of the Bessemer City Council are calling for

the scab-herding to end.

The unionists have also reached out to area churches for help. The Greater Birmingham Ministries, a coalition of local churches, has been meeting with members of the union to learn more about the strike. Recently, Trinity public relations representative Linda Sickels also paid a visit to the Church coalition, as did other groups in the community. In a November 17 letter the coalition urged Trinity to immediately cease hiring replacement workers and rescind the firings of strikers.

Production at the plant remains at a virtual stand-still. Trinity has not completed work on a single rail car since the strike began.

Although an estimated 65-80 scabs continue to enter the plant each day, many have quit. In addition, the number of potential applicants declined significantly over the past week. Most of these replacement workers were convinced not to cross the picket line to apply for jobs, after strikers explained the issues in their fight and the need for labor unity.

Donations and messages of support can be sent to: Local Union 9226 Strike and Defense Fund c/o USWA District 36, P.O. Box 12445, Fairfield, AL 35025.

Denise McInerney is a member of USWA Local 9226 on strike against Trinity in Bessemer, Alabama.

# Trade pact increases rivalry with France

Continued from front page

goods to be offered on the world market at a lower price, thus cornering a larger share of the market for the big grain concerns of a particular country. Governments in the United States, France, and many other countries pay such supports.

## Competition among capitalists

France is Europe's largest producer and exporter of food. It is second only to the United States among food exporting nations in the world. There is more at stake for France in the dispute than for the other members of the EC. Germany, for example, which is primarily an exporter of industrial goods, pushed for a rapid agreement, to avoid threatened U.S. sanc-

tions against its products.

The agreement places the French ruling class in the difficult position of having to choose between defending the interests of the big agricultural monopolies in the country, or giving in to pressure from another section of the capitalist class that demands a greater integration into the European economy.

French agricultural minister Jean-Pierre Soisson said the government would only define its final position after consulting with parliament. He emphasized, however, that the agreement needed the unanimous approval of every member nation of the EC.

Both Paris and Washington hypocritically claim to be safeguarding the interests of working farmers in their own countries.

The Bush administration says that European subsidies cost U.S. farmers \$1 billion a year. French officials say that they cannot reduce subsidies because farmers would go under and take to the streets in protest.

An article in the November 15 *Manchester Guardian*, however, pointed out that working farmers in France face the same crunch as family farmers in the United States. The staggering cost that farmers have to pay for machinery, chemicals, and food, "slash their profit margins to the bone." The article continues, "Farms and farming have become not much more than the battered transmission belt between the agricultural supply business and the food business."



# Cracks in effort to deny Curtis parole

Continued from front page

(NCBL), also traveled to Fort Madison for the hearing. Prison officials barred them from attending, however, on grounds that the prison staff had not been able to process their applications in time.

Curtis's supporters delivered 225 letters to the board members urging that he be freed.

In addition to Curtis's supporters, under Iowa's Victim Rights Law, Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the alleged victim, were present at the hearing.

## Victim of police frame-up

Curtis was the victim of a frame-up by Des Moines police in March 1988. At the time, he was involved in an important fight at the Swift/Monfort meat-packing plant where he worked. Federal immigration police, aided by Des Moines authorities and company officials, raided the plant March 1, seizing 17 workers and threatening them with prison and deportation. Curtis and other workers in the plant participated in a series of public meetings and demonstrations that successfully won the release of the "Swift 17," as they became known.

Following one of the protest meetings, at which Curtis spoke in Spanish to urge his union, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431, to take the lead in defending these workers, he was arrested and framed on a charge of sexual abuse. Though no one claimed anything had been stolen, prosecutors later added a charge of burglary, more than doubling the time Curtis would serve if convicted on the sexual abuse charge. In September 1988 Curtis was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in state prison.

## Board members press SOTP

As in previous years, the hearing began with board members insisting that Curtis attend the state prison SOTP program. Joanne Lorence asked Curtis directly, "are you willing to go through this program?"

Curtis explained he had to decline. "I'm not able to as I maintain my innocence and I'm pursuing an appeal in federal court," he said.

"You are a difficult case. I don't know what to do with it," Lorence responded. "I understand it's a Catch 22. We all assume from the perspective of the system because you were convicted you are, therefore, guilty and therefore to benefit from that treatment you must admit your guilt and move on to treatment issues."

"I don't know if the system deals effectively with someone like you who does not admit their guilt. You know we can't make a determination of your innocence or guilt. We go by the court conviction."

"There is no question you don't fit the profile of a standard convict, but due to the nature of the offense you appear to be very

dangerous, and therefore without treatment could reoffend," she added. "If you do not get treatment, I have a responsibility to the people of this state to protect people, to take steps against the threat of reoffending. I don't have any easy answers. It's a real Catch 22."

"We can't, we shouldn't move away from

Kutmus asked the board members if they would consider work release.

"I think work release is all right," Lorence answered, "but for work release we need consensus." Work release — the closest thing to parole — permits prisoners to live and work outside the prison.

Board member Knauer said she "would



Supporters of Mark Curtis around the world have been campaigning for his release. In Britain, supporters set up information table at demonstration.

what we've established," board member Jackson said. "Mark Curtis says he didn't do it, but you were convicted of it, right? Whatever comes to us is a conviction. I'm talking about the SOTP program—mainly, if we sent you back out without completing the program and you did that [committed a sexual offense] out there, who would we blame?"

Lorence told Curtis that the board had received an evaluation of him from the prison psychologist.

"Essentially what it says is that Mark Curtis is mentally and emotionally stable; mild mannered; but questions his motivation. He is endorsed for the SOTP program," Lorence reported.

## Curtis maintains innocence

Curtis explained that the fact that he maintains his innocence and is appealing his conviction in federal court should not be allowed to stand as a special obstacle in the way of fair consideration of his parole.

Curtis asked if, in fact, the board had a rule requiring inmates to undergo the SOTP program.

"I don't know that it's a rule," Lorence responded. "It is a policy, and we certainly recommend people engage in it."

"I can't say we absolutely have never paroled anyone who didn't go through the program," she added.

Curtis's attorney, Bill Kutmus, intervened to ask the board members to state unequivocally whether the reason for not granting Curtis's parole was his inability to enter the SOTP program. "I ask because we are considering litigation on this," he said, "if that's the reason you are not considering parole. And certainly given the time served, it would be worth considering work release or minimum security."

In a number of states, programs similar to SOTP are made a condition of parole or an alternative to a prison sentence. In a widely publicized case, the Montana Supreme Court ruled in 1991 that convicted sex offenders cannot be required to undergo therapy as a condition for staying out of prison if an essential part of the therapy is an acknowledgment of guilt. In early November, the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to issue an opinion and to leave this ruling intact.

## New opening for parole fight

The hearing revealed the difficulties the board faces in countering the objective strength of Curtis's case for parole by now insisting that he first admit guilt and enter the SOTP program. Unlike at the previous three hearings, this time one board member indicated the board might consider placing Curtis on work release or advancing him to a minimum security facility.

Lorence responded to Kutmus by saying "I'm willing to come off the requirement of SOTP."

not consider such until he had five years in." "These statements," Curtis told supporters after the hearing, "demonstrate that our push for parole now is having an effect."

Curtis urged the board members to take the proposal for work release back for review by all five members of the board.

"I don't see any need for that," Lorence responded. "Your counselor can bring you up [to the board] any time, especially past the five year mark. I for one am at least going to listen. My hesitation is that the victim should be present; it removes them if you take it back to the board."

Board members also expressed different degrees of willingness to consider shifting Curtis to a minimum-security facility. He is now in a medium-security prison.

Lorence said she was "certainly supportive" of the idea that Curtis be put on a trial "gate pass," during which he would work outside the prison fence without wearing handcuffs or chains.

Richard Larkin, Curtis's prison counselor, said he "would recommend gate pass after [Curtis] completes the vocational program." Curtis is taking a study program in the prison's printshop, which he will finish within the next two months.

Larkin said prison officials here previously declined to advance Curtis, instead waiting for action by the board.

Larkin was asked by Lorence whether he considered Curtis a security risk, and he said he found the question difficult to answer. "Yes and no. From his adjustment here I haven't seen him do anything here that would make me leery. But for the crime I'd have to say he's a security risk. So, it's hard to say, yes or no."

While opposing any movement now, board member Jackson said, "If you complete whatever you're supposed to complete, you will be up for a minimum."

Lorence stated, "I'm not opposed to minimum."

Asked by Lorence about transferring Curtis to a minimum-security prison, the prison counselor said, "We have a classification committee to deal with this."

Morris then interjected, "I personally don't care how much sex therapy" Curtis is subjected to. Attempting to smear Curtis, he added, "I've heard it through the neighborhood that he is dangerous. Yes, his behavior here is probably model, but there is a difference between [being] in here and out there on the street where there are young people around. His behavior is a crime of violence to a minor and usually the next time there will be no witness."

Lorence said to Morris, "You expressed my fears very well," stating that her concern was "to protect the public."

Board members indicated that they could reopen consideration of Curtis's request for advancement or parole prior to the next annual hearing in November 1993.

"The counselor can bring you up at any time, as you complete whatever you need to complete," Lorence said.

"No parole today," Knauer said.

## Supporters assess hearing

Following the hearing, Kutmus told the other delegation members that "like you, I am angry. But I am also convinced that we have made progress."

Delegation members returned to Des Moines and were joined by 25 other Curtis supporters for a press conference and public meeting.

Defense coordinator Studer told the meeting, "There was some motion at the hearing — parole board members stated for the first time they might consider putting Curtis on a gate pass, or in a minimum-security facility, or even work release. At the same time, the fact is that the board has so far refused any such advancement. While they blinked a little the authorities haven't given up on their effort to break Mark and force him to enter the SOTP program." He pointed to the statement at the hearing by Curtis's attorney Kutmus that he was looking into the possibility of legally challenging the SOTP obstacle.

"We need to continue campaigning against this denial of Mark's constitutional rights until this is rejected by the parole board and prison officials unambiguously," Studer continued. "Now is the time to push harder on the cracks that were revealed during the hearing."

He pointed out that board members referred several times to the large number of letters urging the board to grant Curtis parole. Board member Jackson remarked in a blustering way, "I won't yield under that type of pressure." At the same time, Lorence told Curtis, "We will do you the courtesy of wading through this package" of letters.

"This should encourage us to win even more people to his fight for justice," Studer said.

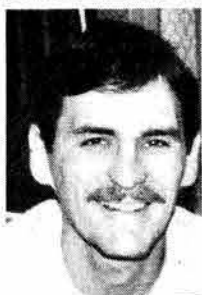
"This is the time to step up our efforts," Stuart Adams of the NCBL told the gathering. "We have the best opportunity we've ever had to press for Mark's release."

Piri Thomas, who read a number of poems as part of the program, explained he was proud to have come to be part of the fight. "I'm especially proud of brother Mark Curtis today, his courage and his leadership."

"As he always tells us, we have to 'stay strong.' If we do, we will prevail," he said.

## from PATHFINDER The Frame-up of Mark Curtis A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$5.00



Available at Pathfinder bookstores on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Include \$3.00 for first copy for postage and handling and \$.50 for each additional copy.)

## Congress of South African Trade Unions urges Parole for Curtis

17 November 1992

Dear Parole Board Members

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), which represents approximately 1.5 million workers, expresses its full support for the unconditional release of Mark Curtis from prison.

We are convinced that Mark Curtis's Union and Political activism clarify for everybody his commitment to creating a better society for all and the valuable contribution he is still capable of making to that end.

His conduct in prison and the length of time already served indicates to us that there can no longer be any good reason

to continue to imprison him.

Noting also the "Political" nature of his case, and the controversies surrounding the original conviction, we believe our support, and the support of other organisations and individuals, must have a decisive impact on your decision whether to continue to imprison Mark Curtis or release him.

Accordingly, we call on you to decide today to release Mark Curtis so he may rejoin our ranks and once more make a positive contribution to society.

Yours sincerely

Chris Dlamini  
First Vice President



# Socialist Workers campaign makes gains

## Growing interest in communist ideas among youth and workers resisting crisis

BY SARA LOBMAN

"The Socialist Workers 1992 campaign found a deep interest among working people and youth in a working-class alternative to the Democrats and Republicans and their drive toward more wars, more racism, and economic depression," said James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. President. "What was most striking was the seriousness with which young people and fighting workers took up the big questions being posed in world politics. We found a real openness to communist ideas."

Between the launching of the socialist presidential campaign at a rally in New York on March 29 and the November 3 election, Warren, his vice-presidential running mate Estelle DeBates, and 113 socialist candidates running for state and federal offices talked to thousands of people. They joined growing numbers of workers around the world who are beginning to resist — on picket lines, protest actions, and marches — government and employer assaults, and the effects of the world economic depression.

From the beginning, the socialist campaign was international. One of the first campaign trips that Warren and DeBates took, in April, was to North Korea to express solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for reunification and against Washington's military and economic threats against that country.

"Kicking off his United States presidential campaign by visiting other countries is an attempt to unite working people on a world scale," reported an article in the *Christchurch, New Zealand, Press* about James Warren's stop in that country.

The candidates visited over a dozen countries during the campaign including Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Cuba, Canada, Britain, South Africa, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Sweden, and Iceland. Socialist Workers campaign representatives traveled to Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Greece, Nicaragua, and Yugoslavia.

In the eight months of the campaign the socialist candidates explained that the economic depression was a crisis of the capitalist system worldwide. It is this crisis that leads to sharper trade disputes between imperialist countries, wars and threats of war, and new employer and government attacks on the rights and organizations of working people. A central focus of the campaign was speaking out against Washington's war moves against Iraq and Yugoslavia.

Warren and DeBates explained that ultra-rightist forces like Patrick Buchanan address real concerns of millions, but with solutions that are disastrous for the working class. They respond to the panic of the middle classes, and a layer of workers, in the face of the crisis, by scapegoating large sections of the working class — immigrant workers, Jews, Catholics, "welfare cheats," homosexuals, and others.

The street mobilizations of right-wing

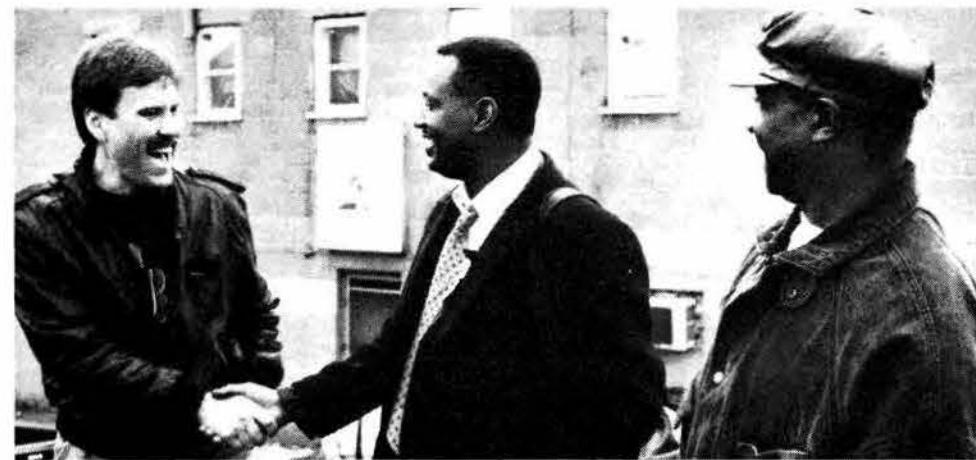
forces against abortion rights in the United States and against immigrant workers throughout Germany point to the need for the labor movement to mobilize to defend our rights, the candidates explained. The Socialist Workers candidates put forward an action program to unify the toilers of the world. They called for cancellation of the Third World debt, shortening the workweek with no cut in pay, and affirmative action.

### Struggle is most important

Warren and DeBates explained that the radical austerity measures called for by Ross

perot were exactly the program that the Democrats and Republicans will try to implement after the elections.

"Who you vote for on November 3 is the least important thing," Warren explained everywhere he went. "What's important is what you do to struggle, in the streets, for your rights." The candidates pointed to the massive revolution unfolding in South Africa as an example of what working people can accomplish. DeBates visited South Africa during the summer and participated in the African National Congress-led mass action campaign.



Militant/Paul Mailhot



Militant/Greg McCartan

Warren spent a week in Cuba learning how workers, farmers, and young people there are mobilizing to advance the revolu-

tion in the face of Washington's criminal blockade and aggression and the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union.

Warren met with airline workers locked out at Nationair in Canada. When members of the United Auto Workers struck General Motors in Lordstown, Ohio, and Lansing, Michigan, the socialist campaign joined the fight.

Warren and DeBates participated in the massive demonstration of 500,000 for abortion rights in Washington, D.C., on April 5. DeBates spent a week in Houston in August, joining hundreds of young people in defending abortion clinics from right-wing thugs.

Warren was in Los Angeles when the cops who brutally beat Rodney King were acquitted. He denounced the verdict and the government repression that followed, and put forward a perspective on how working peo-

ple, outraged by the verdict, could mobilize against police brutality.

When immigration cops in Nebraska conducted a massive raid of the Monfort packinghouse in Grand Island, arresting more than 300 workers, the Socialist Workers campaign in Iowa was quick to demand the release of all those arrested. Campaign supporters organized teams to go talk to workers at the plant, find out the workers side of the story, and tell it to win solidarity for their struggle around the country.

### Young people get involved.

In the course of the campaign, dozens of young people, excited by the socialist perspective, adopted the campaign as their own. Youth for Warren and DeBates organized meetings on college campuses, set up campaign tables, organized interviews in school newspapers and radio shows, attended political events, and joined other campaigners at factory gates and mine portals.

In Cleveland, students in the Network for Progressive Action sponsored a meeting for James Warren. Thirty-five students came. The Asian-American Alliance and other students at Oberlin College, also in Ohio, insisted on bringing Warren to campus even though it was fall break and many students were out of town. They built the meeting widely on campus and in the community. The 60 people who attended included students and working people from nearby towns. Students at both campuses have invited representatives of the socialist campaign to speak on campus after the elections.

Youth from the Racism Awareness Group at the University of Minnesota, and other young people active in the fight against police brutality, attended a class at the Socialist Workers campaign office. Afterwards, they joined other campaign activists for a street rally at a busy intersection in Minneapolis.

Young people were the backbone of the months-long drive to get the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot. Reactionary election laws place many barriers in the way of working-class and other candidates who are not in the Democratic or Republican parties appearing on the ballot. Dozens of young people joined a traveling brigade, going from city to city over the summer, talking to tens of thousands of people about the socialist campaign. Many of these people signed nominating petitions to place the candidates on the ballot.

Warren and DeBates gained ballot status in 13 states and the District of Columbia. According to a report by Associated Press, Warren and DeBates received 25,084 votes in these states. In other states, where supporters collected well over the required number of signatures, state election officials ruled Warren and DeBates or local candidates off the ballot, claiming many signatures were invalid. Fights against these undemocratic decisions were waged in Massachusetts, Delaware, Florida, Mississippi, and Ohio.

In Nebraska, officials claim supporters of the socialist campaign forged signatures on the petitions. The fight against this frame-up continues today.

One striking feature of the campaign was the serious attention given by the media. Warren commented, "Many times individual reporters would become interested in the campaign in the course of an interview or public meeting. They would prepare far more serious and favorable articles than they had planned. Often these would end up in print."

Articles taking up the socialists' views on everything from the breakup of the Soviet Union, to current labor battles appeared in dozens of newspapers. These included the *London Times*, three major dailies in New Zealand, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, *Amsterdam News*, *Baltimore Evening Sun*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and many others.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign will continue to participate in the struggles that workers and youth are involved in, carrying out many of the same political activities they took part in during the last eight months.

## Socialists take stands on ballot issues

BY SARA LOBMAN

In the November 6 issue of the *Militant*, the Socialist Workers Campaign outlined the positions it was taking on various referenda that appeared on the ballot in several states. What follows is a wrap-up of how these ballot measures fared.

Oregon voters rejected, 57 percent to 43 percent, an antigay measure. Measure 9 would have amended the Oregon state constitution to outlaw the use of any state funds or property to "promote, encourage, or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism, or masochism." It would have mandated the teaching at all levels that "such behaviors are abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse." The Socialist campaign had urged a "no" vote.

A similar measure in Colorado that denies homosexuals protection from discrimination was approved by 53 percent.

Washington, D.C., voters overwhelmingly defeated the "Mandatory Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty for Murder in the District of Columbia" initiative, which had been proposed by Congress. The measure

was rejected by 66 percent. Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers candidate for Delegate to the House hailed this victory. "The death penalty is used to terrorize and intimidate working people," he said. This would have been the most sweeping death-penalty law in the United States.

In New Jersey, a constitutional amendment that will allow increased use of the death penalty was approved by 72 percent. The amendment reinstates execution as a possible punishment for those who the court decides intended only to injure their victims, but whose actions led to death. This amendment overturns a 1988 New Jersey Supreme Court ruling that such individuals could not be executed. The New Jersey socialist election campaign took a position against the constitutional change.

Proposition 161 in California would have authorized terminally ill, mentally competent adults to request "aid in dying." Socialist senatorial candidate Joel Britton urged support for the measure explaining that this right would give "the greatest value to human consciousness and the ability of a

person to control decisions regarding his or her life." The measure was defeated.

The socialist campaign had urged a "no" vote on Proposition 165, also in California. This initiative, which was defeated, was aimed at scapegoating those working people who suffer the most under the impact of the economic crisis. It would have eliminated cost-of-living adjustments and reduced payments of Aid for Dependent Children. The Socialist Workers Party explained that this measure pointed away from the fight for jobs for all workers.

An Equal Rights Amendment failed in Iowa 48 percent to 52 percent. This amendment would have added a section to the Iowa state constitution on guaranteeing equal rights for women. Socialist Workers candidates urged passage of the law.

In Maryland, a measure — supported by the socialist campaign — that gives women 18 and older sole decision making power over whether or not to have an abortion prior to viability, was approved by 62 percent of voters (see article in the November 27 issue of the *Militant*).



# 'Enthusiasm is running high' as drive to meet goals takes off

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The international drive to win new readers to the *Militant* is getting on track in many areas, and supporters of the paper around the world are now in a good position to meet their goals by the December 5 deadline, if they continue the fight.

This week we received 308 *Militant* subscriptions at the business office — or 13 percent of the goal, half a percentage point higher than the weekly average needed to meet the goal. For the first time since the beginning of the subscription effort we inched closer toward being on schedule. This is a turning point in the circulation campaign.

## Miami jumps ahead!

In the nine days from November 14–22, *Militant* supporters in Miami sold 38 subscriptions, putting them at the top of the chart. "Enthusiasm is running high here," said Rollande Girard. "We plan to raise the overall goal of the drive." Girard said they also sold ten subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and 25 issues of *New International* in the same period. Despite pouring rain, supporters sold 14 subscriptions, 8 to the *Militant* and 6 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, at the international book fair in Miami.

"We knew we were on a roll when Janet Post, one of our supporters, sold a subscription to a mechanic who came to fix her car, which broke down while she was on the way to join a sales team," Girard reported.

## Helping other areas

Janet Post subsequently volunteered to take Miami's success on the road. She will be spending a week in Atlanta, helping supporters there to pick up the pace in that city.

Matt Hereshoff, from Houston, Texas, will be joining supporters in St. Louis, bringing with him some of the momentum from Houston.

## Midwest week-long team

Gale Shangold was excited to report on a week-long team she participated in, selling the *Militant* in Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

They sold 12 *Militant* and 4 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, as well as one copy of *New International*. "The best aspect was that we were able to really combine political work among students and unionists, and found a lot of interest

*Militant* subscription goal from 60 to 65. Sylvie Charbin reports that business in the local Pathfinder Bookstore has boomed as people hear about the store from sales teams around town. Seven subscriptions to the *Militant* and two to *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold at a conference on feminism and anti-racism November 13–15, as well as \$250 in Pathfinder books covering a wide range of topics.

Sales have also been good at the first showings of the new movie *Malcolm X*, and the Toronto Pathfinder Bookstore is hosting open house programs featuring videos of *Malcolm X* as an opportunity for film-goers to continue the political discussions.

Supporters from Chicago surpassed Toronto. They raised their goal by 10, to 85. They also planned an aggressive campaign to make the new goal.

## 'New International' on demand at bookfair

Sales of the *New International* got a boost at the Caribbean Peoples International Bookfair recently held in Trinidad and Tobago. Distributors sold 29 copies of the Marxist magazine during the seven-day event.

## Australia supporters get around

Supporters of the *Militant* in Sydney, Australia, have made two trips to Melbourne in response to the labor upsurge unfolding there (see articles on page 15). The first team of three participated in a massive union rally during a general strike on November 10. Another team took part in a march protesting the massacre of over 100 East Timorese in Dili by Indonesian troops one year ago, and sold 2 *Militant* subs, and 15 single copies of the paper. A third trip to Melbourne is in the works for November 30.

\* \* \*

Keep sending in reports on how it's going in your area along with photographs of sales teams. And if you would like to join in the campaign, contact the supporters nearest you, listed on page 12, or call the *Militant* at (212) 243-6392.

## Cincinnati maps out plan

Valerie Libby reports that the drive in Cincinnati has finally gotten off the ground. "We started to call people we met during the Socialist Workers election campaign, and have gotten a fantastic response. We've started selling subscriptions, and I think we've just scratched the surface." A *Militant* reader in Louisville, Kentucky, is organizing a day of activity for salespeople from Cincinnati to join him on December 5.

## Toronto, Chicago raise goals

Supporters in Toronto raised their

# Michigan high school students fight to keep course on homosexuality

BY SHARISSE BEASLEY

BIRMINGHAM, Michigan — In a precedent-setting case here, high school students in this suburban Detroit school district are leading the fight to keep a course on homosexuality in their sex-education curriculum.

Some parents and others in the Birmingham School District are trying to get the course thrown out. They have accused the school district of "advocating" homosexuality in the three-session course offered to juniors and seniors at Seaholm and Groves high schools. Developed over five years, the course has included statistics on homosexuals in the United States, videos, and panels of gay and lesbian speakers who answer questions from students. It is the only program of its kind taught in Michigan public schools.

At an October 27 school board meeting of 150, over half of whom

were students, men and women from both high schools took the microphone one after another to defend the sex-education course.

"You're telling us we're old enough to vote and if we went to war we could die for our country," said Kevin Parks, a student at Groves High. "You're telling us that we can't discuss our own sexuality?" He told the board that students need to learn about homosexuality. "This is not like Nazi Germany," he said. "Not everyone can have blond hair and blue eyes."

One parent at the meeting presented the school board with a petition signed by 800 people that read in part: "We see this [the course] as another important component in the district's continuing effort to eliminate bigotry and discrimination."

Speakers against the course included Scott Castle, who said he disagreed with teaching that homosexuality is not a mental illness. "I

believe homosexuality can be unlearned," Castle told the school board.

School board officials said they would not make a decision on the course until December 15.

The fight of the students and many parents to keep the right to learn about homosexuality is part of answering the right-wing backlash against the movement of free political thought in this country.

James Harris, who was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in Michigan's 15th Congressional District, stated: "The Socialist Workers Party fully supports the fight of the students at Seaholm and Groves high schools to achieve a real education. This has to begin with learning the truth and the facts about the world we live in; whether it be about so-called controversial issues like AIDS and homosexuality or social issues like racism, war, and unemployment."



Sales table at march of 150,000 against gov't attacks on workers in Melbourne, Australia.

# SUBSCRIPTION SCOREBOARD

## AROUND THE WORLD

	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New International Single issues	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Salt Lake City	52	65	80%	7	13	2	20
Houston *	58	75	77%	10	13	11	30
Miami	57	75	76%	13	20	42	40
Cleveland	44	60	73%	1	6	24	40
Newark, NJ	85	125	68%	19	35	23	65
Birmingham, AL	44	65	68%	0	3	2	35
Twin Cities, MN *	65	100	65%	8	13	11	30
Philadelphia	47	75	63%	7	13	4	35
Seattle	47	75	63%	11	23	8	35
Greensboro, NC	40	65	62%	1	5	15	30
Chicago *	52	85	61%	5	19	14	35
Washington DC	41	70	59%	10	20	3	35
Los Angeles	73	125	58%	37	75	47	70
Detroit	41	75	55%	6	6	9	35
Atlanta	35	65	54%	1	5	4	30
San Francisco	51	95	54%	9	35	20	60
Morgantown, WV	26	50	52%	3	2	5	30
Des Moines, IA	41	80	51%	10	16	8	40
Ft. Madison, Iowa	1	2	50%	0	0	0	0
Cincinnati	12	25	48%	1	5	6	5
Pittsburgh	33	70	47%	0	3	4	35
New York	77	175	44%	19	50	64	90
Boston	39	90	43%	13	25	25	45
St. Louis	34	80	43%	1	3	15	35
Baltimore	29	75	39%	1	6	1	25
Portland	4	12	33%	0	1	1	10
New Haven, CT	3	15	20%	1	1	1	6
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>946</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>BARBADOS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>							
London	27	45	60%	1	5	15	40
Sheffield	14	35	40%	1	3	0	20
Manchester	9	35	26%	0	2	5	30
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>CANADA</b>							
Vancouver	38	60	63%	8	10	8	20
Montreal	28	50	56%	5	20	9	50
Toronto *	34	65	52%	7	15	27	40
Quebec City	0	3	0%	0	0	0	2
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>							
Auckland	30	40	75%	0	3	4	8
Wellington	22	35	63%	1	1	8	10
Christchurch	14	25	56%	0	1	10	8
<b>N.Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SWEDEN *</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>1,241</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>		<b>1,763</b>	<b>75%</b>		<b>338</b>		<b>900</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>		<b>2,350</b>			<b>450</b>		<b>1,200</b>

## IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM			NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL
<b>UNITED STATES</b>					
UFCW	39	40	98%	7	15
UTU*	39	50	78%	5	15
UMWA	13	18	72%	0	6
IAM	76	110	69%	4	42
OCAW	29	50	58%	3	20
UAW	43	80	54%	8	35
USWA	47	90	52%	7	30
ACTWU	25	48	52%	2	26
ILGWU	10	32	31%	4	9
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>389</b>		<b>75%</b>		
<b>CANADA</b>					
USWA	3	12	25%	2	5
IAM	2	10	20%	0	4
CAW	3	15	20%	2	8
ACTWU	1	10	10%	0	4
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>75%</b>		
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>					
MWU	2	2	100%	0	1
UFCW	3	5	60%	0	1
EU	2	5	40%	0	1
<b>N.Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>75%</b>		
<b>SWEDEN</b>					
Metal Workers	6	7	86%	3	2
Food Workers*	3	4	75%	1	1
<b>SWEDEN TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>75%</b>		

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW (U.S.) — United Food and Commercial Workers; UFCW (New Zealand) — United Food and Chemical Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

\* Raised goal



# 'Millions have had enough of apartheid'

## Activists attend New York conference to support struggle in South Africa

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — Four hundred people took part in a conference in solidarity with the freedom struggle in South Africa here November 13-15.

Another 600 attended special events during the meeting, including the opening plenary and a public rally to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress (ANC).

Conference participants adopted a "Program of Action" resolving "to exert maximum pressure on the apartheid regime and its allies to agree to a date for free and fair elections before the end of 1993." The resolution demanded the "United States government exert the maximum public pressure on the South African regime to end its campaign of violence and to take immediate and effective measures to conduct a nationwide campaign against violence."

Onifa Hutchinson came to the meeting with 20 other students from the State University of New York in Oneonta. Attending her first political conference, Hutchinson said the discussions "were great" because she had "never heard directly from ANC members about the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. It looks like things are going to change, but we have a part to play in that." Students from some 20 other college campuses attended the conference.

The majority of participants came from national and local organizations involved in South Africa solidarity work over the last 15 years. Elected officials included U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes; congresspeople Charles Rangel, Maxine Waters, and Howard Wolpe; and New York mayor David Dinkins. Joan Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of United Auto Workers District 65; William Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and secretary-treasurer of the Association of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees; Coretta Scott King; and Jesse Jackson also addressed conference workshops and plenary sessions.

For many, it was a chance to learn about the revolutionary struggle to establish a democratically elected constituent assembly, the conditions facing working people in South Africa today, and what the ANC and other organizations see as the main challenges in the struggle to redress the pernicious legacy of apartheid once a democratic republic is established.

ANC president Nelson Mandela, slated to present a keynote speech, was unable to attend the gathering. In a video-taped message, he said two pressing leadership needs prevented him from leaving South Africa: addressing government-instigated attacks against ANC members and widespread random violence in the country, and preparing for bilateral negotiations with the South African

regime set for November 21.

"I'm sure you are aware that our nation is experiencing one of our most serious crises in our painful history," he said in the message, pointing to the rising violence which aims to force the revolutionary democratic movement "to accept unacceptable schemes to perpetuate apartheid."

Negotiations with the Pretoria regime were broken off by the ANC after a massacre of dozens of people last June in the township of Boipatong. Local residents charge police collaborated with supporters

said. "It is a violence of desperation and of defeat. It is a violence that is a response to the certainty of our victory. But as you know, all of these victories have come about as a result of struggle. We still have to reach our final goal, and that means more struggle."

Mbeki addressed the discussion at the conference concerning the possibilities of a change in Washington's policy toward South Africa under the Clinton administration. Most participants expressed the view that with a renewed lobbying effort and increased activity, the new administration would adopt

Churches, kicked off the discussion on the "Role of the Religious Community." A workshop on "Children, Students, and Youth" was led by Ignatius Jacob, a member of the ANC Youth League's National Executive Committee, and Bridget Mabandla, from the ANC's Women's League.

Unionists from the United States heard Congress of South African Trade Union (COSATU) leaders Chris Dlamini and Jeyandra Naidoo. A workshop on women's rights was led by Gertrude Shope, president of the ANC Women's League.

The following day, workshop participants returned to discuss activities in the United States that could extend solidarity to the revolutionary struggle and "provide support and cooperation to the democratic movement to strengthen its capacity to carry out the process of transformation," as the final conference resolution states.

### Students plan for youth tour

At the workshop on youth, student activists began organizing for a "South African Youth Speaking Tour" of college campuses by ANC and other youth leaders early next spring.

Kim Paula Kirkley, from the Black Law Students Association at New Jersey's Rutgers University in Newark, reported to the final plenary that youth in the New York area had volunteered to begin getting the word out about the tour. "We encourage everyone here to join in this effort," she said, because the tour will "focus on co-empowerment, reciprocity, and broadening our understanding of and participation in the international struggle against apartheid, racism, and other forms of discrimination."

Damon Ali, representing the Africana Student Cultural Center in Minneapolis, said that the conference helped him see "how important it is to incorporate youth in the movement and youth in America have to be informed. For me the most important thing coming out of the conference is a national tour of youth from South Africa to help educate as many people as possible about the struggle."

Many of the workshops adopted the week of February 7-14 as dates for "local actions against the violence to coincide with the third anniversary of Nelson Mandela's release from prison and Black History Month." The call for the week of activities was made by the Africa Fund. December 10, International Human Rights Day, was also targeted as a day for local protests.

In addition to these activities, union members at the conference decided to encourage "increased exchanges and contact between South African and U.S. workers, particularly local leadership and rank-and-file members."

Several labor officials slated to address the conference did not attend; and participation of rank-and-file unionists was modest. AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland sent a message of support to the conference and a number of unions contributed messages of solidarity in the conference brochure.

Solidarity with the peoples of Angola and Mozambique was also a feature of a number of participants' remarks and conference speeches. Many pointed to the recent armed actions against the government of Angola by the UNITA terror band headed by Jonas Savimbi.

The conference was sponsored by a range of solidarity organizations, union locals and officials, and prominent individuals. Cleveland Robinson and Lennox Hinds, the interim director of the Mandela Freedom Fund, cochaired the conference planning committee.

Conference organizers had originally sought to "forge a new national coalition" of organizations "committed to ending apartheid and the development of a democratic South Africa."

No mention was made of this proposal during conference sessions, and no new organization was formed at the meeting. Opposition came from some established organizations involved in antiapartheid work and the proposal received little support from union officials.



Thabo Mbeki addressing ANC support rally in New York, November 14.

of the Inkatha Freedom Party, headed by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in planning and carrying out the attack.

"Recently and belatedly the government of South Africa accepted" ANC demands to take steps to curb the violence and make initial steps toward the establishment of an interim government, Mandela said. Speaking to the conference participants he pointed out that "Together we must remove the obstacles" for the regime "to accept the establishment of an Interim Government of National Unity and the democratic elections for a constituent assembly."

Thabo Mbeki, director of the ANC's Department of International Affairs, opened the conference and gave a speech to the rally the following day.

The battle to bring down apartheid has been on a "road of victories," he said at the rally, forcing the white-minority regime to "concede they have neither the strength, moral right, or political power to deny the right of the people to govern themselves."

Violence perpetrated by the government "is an attempt to deny the victory of the common cause that has brought us here," he

a more favorable stance toward the ANC.

In a policy statement published in *Africa Report*, Clinton said he would maintain existing economic sanctions "until there is an irreversible, full, and fair accommodation with the Black majority," — the same policy followed in practice by the Bush administration. Clinton also said he would ask South African president F.W. de Klerk to bring to trial those responsible for violence in the country and that he would offer aid and investment to a new government.

### Clinton and South Africa

In a keynote address, Jesse Jackson compared the last ten years in South Africa as similar to what transpired in the United States under two Republican administrations. Now people in both countries, he said, have the prospect of a new government in the coming months.

Jackson scored the George Bush administration for providing "massive aid" to countries in Eastern Europe and little to the countries in southern Africa. "When [Poland's president] Lech Walesa visited the United States, he left with \$700 million," he said.

"We know how to rebuild countries. If we can rebuild Japan and Europe [after World War II], we can rebuild South Africa," he said, suggesting to the conference that they "will have to 'help' Clinton honor the covenant" to aid South Africa once a new government is established.

"The promise that arises from this new administration must be turned into a reality," Mbeki said. What the administration will deliver must depend on what the people of this country say to that administration.

"We are certain of our victory. Millions of our people have had enough of apartheid," he said to cheers from the audience. "Millions of our people are determined that they must be their own liberators. They are determined that whatever the level of violence, they are not going to abandon the path of liberation on which they have been for centuries."

At each of the 14 workshops held during the conference, leaders of the ANC and other organizations discussed the current political situation in South Africa and what the democratic movement is fighting for in a nonracial and democratic country.

ANC Department of Information and Publicity director Pallo Jordan led a workshop on the media, along with Zwelakhe Sisulu, editor of the South African weekly newspaper *New Nation*. Frank Chikane, secretary general of the South African Council of

from Pathfinder

### THE STRUGGLE IS MY LIFE

**Nelson Mandela**

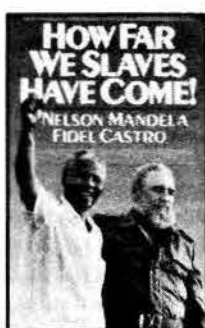
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# 'We're against those who practice racism'

February 1965 speech by Malcolm X

Printed below are excerpts from a speech Malcolm X gave at the Corn Hill Methodist Church in Rochester, New York, February 16, 1965 — five days before he was assassinated.

Titled "Not just an American problem, but a world problem," the speech is one of several interviews and public talks by Malcolm X that appear in *February 1965: The Final Speeches*. This book, published by Pathfinder Press, provides an overview of the political evolution of Malcolm's views, concentrating on the last month of his life.

These excerpts are copyright © 1992 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press and are reprinted by permission. The book is available for \$17.95 at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder at 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

We also realize that the problem facing Black people in this country is so complex and so involved and has been here so long,



Eli Finer/Pathfinder Press

Malcolm X

unsolved, that it is absolutely necessary for us to form another organization. Which we did, which is a nonreligious organization and which is known as the Organization of Afro-American Unity, that it is so structured organizationally to allow for active participation of any Afro-American, any Black American, in a program that is designed to eliminate the negative political, economic, and social evils that our people are confronted by in this society.

And we have that setup because we realize that we have to fight against the evils of a society that has failed to produce brotherhood for every member of that society. This in no way means that we're antiwhite, anti-blue, antigreen, or antiyellow. We're anti-wrong. We're antidiscrimination. We're antisegregation. We're against anybody who wants to practice some form of segregation or discrimination against us because we don't happen to be a color that's acceptable to you. We believe in fighting that. [Applause]

We don't judge a man because of the color of his skin. We don't judge you because you're white. We don't judge you because you're Black. We don't judge you because you're brown. We judge you because of what you do, what you practice. And as long as you practice evil, we're against you. And to us, the worst form of evil is the evil that's based upon judging a man because of the color of his skin. And I don't think anybody here can deny that we're living in a society that just doesn't judge a man according to his talent, according to his know-how, according to his academic background, or lack of academic

background. This society judges a man solely upon the color of his skin. If you're white, you can go forward, and if you're Black, you have to fight your way every step of the way, and you still don't get forward. [Applause]

We are living in a society that is by and large controlled by people who believe in segregation. We are living in a society that is by and large controlled by a people who believe in racism, and practice segregation and discrimination and racism. We believe in a — and I say that it is controlled not by the well-meaning whites, it's controlled by the segregationists, the racists. And you can see by the pattern that this society follows all over the world. Right now in Asia you have the American army dropping bombs on dark-skinned people. Now you can't say that — there's no way you can justify being that far from home, dropping bombs on somebody else. If you were next door, I could see it, but you can't go that far away from this country and drop bombs on somebody else and justify your presence over there, not with me. [Applause]

It's racism. Racism practiced by America. Racism which involves a war against the dark-skinned people in Asia, another form of racism involving a war against the dark-skinned people in the Congo, the same as it involves a war against the dark-skinned people in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Rochester, New York. [Applause]

So we're not against people because they're white. But we're against those who practice racism. We're against those who drop bombs on people because their color happens to be of a different shade than yours. And because we're against it, the press says we're violent. We're not for violence. We're for peace. But the people that we're up against are so violent, you can't be peaceful when you're dealing with them. [Laughter and applause]

They accuse us of what they themselves are guilty of. This is what the criminal always does. He'll bomb you, then accuse you of bombing yourself. He'll crush your skull, and then accuse you of attacking him. This is what the racists have always done — the criminal, the one who has criminal processes developed to a science. He'll practice his criminal action, and then use the press to make you victim — look like the victim is the criminal, and the criminal is the victim. This is how they do it. [Applause] And you here in Rochester probably know more about this than anybody anywhere else.

\* \* \*

All of the nations that signed the Charter of the UN came up with the Declaration of Human Rights, and anyone who classifies his grievances under the label of human rights violations, those grievances can then be brought into the United Nations and be discussed by people all over the world. For as long as you call it "civil rights," your only allies can be the people in the next community, many of whom are responsible for your grievance. But when you call it "human rights," it becomes international. And then you can take your troubles into the World Court. You can take them before the world. And anybody anywhere on this earth can become your ally.

So one of the first steps that we became involved in, those of us who got into the Organization of Afro-American Unity, was to come up with a program that would make our grievances international and make the world see that our problem was no longer a Negro problem or an American problem, but a human problem. A problem for humanity. And a problem which should be attacked by all elements of humanity. A problem that was so complex that it was impossible for Uncle Sam to solve it himself. And therefore we want to get into a body or conference of people who are in such positions that they can help us get some kind of adjustment for this situation before it gets so explosive that no one can handle it.

Thank you. [Applause]

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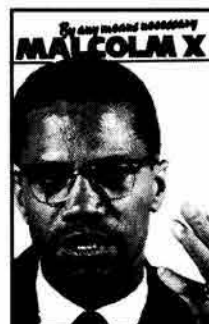


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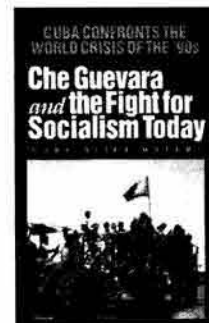
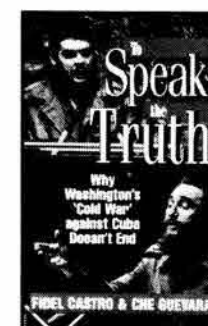
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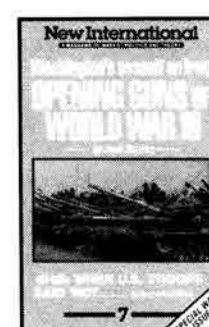
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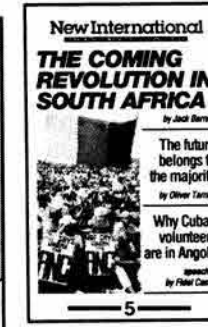


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# New openings for political action after El Salvador accords

BY RON ROBERTS

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — "Attention FMLN zone" reads the sign at the entrance to a UN-supervised Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) camp located at the Nacaspilo canton in the San Vicente province.

We arrive with Elmer Guzmán, 37, the camp commander, after a two-hour car ride from San Salvador, the capital. For the first time since he joined the guerrilla struggle 14 years earlier, he had been attending meetings without risking his life, making use of the newly won space for political activity under the UN-brokered agreements between the government and the FMLN.

Just before entering the camp-proper we pass a UN station with a sealed railroad car containing 60 percent of the FMLN arms from the camp, pending final destruction with the fulfillment of the accords. This is one of dozens of agreed-upon areas for FMLN forces to bivouac, which are off-limits to the army. The camp, which originally housed 267 guerrillas, is now nearly empty. Most FMLN combatants here have been demobilized or have temporarily returned to their land to help in the harvests.

The accords, reached through negotiations that began in April 1990 and signed on January 16, 1992, bring to an end a decade-long civil war. More than 75,000 died during the war — the vast majority peasants, workers, and students killed by the Salvadoran government and its death squads — 20,000 were wounded, and nearly one million were displaced from their houses.

Salvadorans joined in big rallies at the beginning of this year to celebrate the signing of the accords, echoing the deeply felt desire for peace by working people in this country.

Contrary to the image presented by U.S. officials and the big-business media, this stage of politics in El Salvador was reached not because of, but in spite of Washington's efforts. The U.S. government financed the war and the brutal regime that carried it out — providing the Salvadoran government with \$260 million in military and economic aid in 1991 alone.

Thousands marched here on October 31, the original deadline for completing the demobilization, to demand that the Salvadoran government comply with the peace accords. President Alfredo Cristiani and senior army officers had made defiant declarations demanding the FMLN completely disarm before the government would proceed to implement its pledges to cut the military and discuss officers involved in human rights violations.

The FMLN has not projected mass protests, strikes, or land occupations to pressure the government to fulfill the accords, relying on its own military forces as leverage. "Our arms are the only guarantee that the accords will be fulfilled," said Guzmán, explaining why the FMLN had refrained from meeting the original deadline for demobilization. "The negotiations and peace accords are not the result of weakness but are the result of our military struggle," explained Guzmán.

Following a UN proposal and the announcement by the FMLN that it would proceed with the demobilization of its guerrilla forces, a new calendar for the accords was agreed to by the government, with the final demobilization slated for mid-December.

The FMLN has now demobilized 60 percent of its forces. Its troops are scheduled to give up their weapons, which will then be destroyed, by December 15.

The main point of contention today is the purging of a secret list of some 97 to 110 high-ranking army officers implicated in human rights abuses by an Ad Hoc Commission as part of the accords. The government does not want the list made public and reportedly wants to make the changes part of regularly scheduled retirements and command shifts at the beginning of next year.

As established in the accords, the National Civil Police (PNC) will begin to be organized in 1993 and will begin functioning in 1994 as the national police force. Sixty percent of PNC members are supposed to be newly recruited civilians, 20 percent former FMLN members, and 20 percent former soldiers from the Salvadoran military. The FMLN considers the PNC as a guarantee against further repression by the armed forces once the FMLN is demobilized.

## FMLN shift to electoral politics

The FMLN was formed in November 1980 by a coalition of five organizations. Massive repression against students, trade unionists, and peasants closed off all avenues of legal protest, resulting in the decision by thousands to take up arms.

While several U.S.-supported regimes were unable to defeat the rebels, the FMLN could not achieve military victory over government forces either.

The initial political program of the FMLN, inspired by the course advanced by the Cuban revolution and at the time by the revolution in Nicaragua, called for struggle by workers and peasants to take power out of the hands of the landlord-capitalist

piece of paper. Hours after the beating Budzyn gave investigators four rocks of cocaine that he said Green had been holding.

Lee Hardy, an Emergency Service driver who witnessed the beating, is quoted in the *Michigan Citizen* as saying, "I saw this guy being beaten. He was hanging half in and half out of the driver's side door."

Since the beating, the Detroit media has run article after article that justify the violent behavior of the police and criminalizing Green. In a typical front-page headline the November 18 *Detroit Free Press* declared, "Drugs in Green's body — Cops' lawyers say finding puts victim in new light." The article quotes the Oakland County Medical Examiner Dr. L.J. Dragovic as saying, "Cocaine can lead a person to disregard otherwise obvious dangers — run in front of a car or fight with a bigger, stronger person — and then to continue aggressive, confrontational behavior."

The circumstances surrounding this beating are being widely talked about among working people in this city. Many are discussing the need to keep the pressure on the police and the city administration to insure that the cops are prosecuted.

*James Harris is a member of United Auto Workers Local 155 in Detroit.*



Politics has opened up in El Salvador. Sign says, "Welcome to Santa Clara, FMLN." Militant

regime and to act decisively to advance the interests of the toilers.

Today the FMLN is proceeding to transform itself to an electoral party. Each of its member organizations, and the FMLN itself, have opened public offices across El Salvador. FMLN leaders say that the 1994 elections will provide real opportunities to improve conditions for the majority in the country.

"The purge of the officer corps, demilitarization, and our participation in the 1994 elections will complete the democratic revolution," said Commander Nidia Diaz, of the FMLN negotiations commission, in an interview.

The FMLN has shifted its principal demands to "democratization" and "demilitarization." In its newly adopted program as a political party, the FMLN declares that it represents the "Salvadoran nation," fights for "democracy and national development," and raises up the "family as the basic foundation of Salvadoran society."

FMLN leaders such as Joaquín Villalobos call for a sharp break with past positions, claiming a symmetry between "extreme left and extreme right." Villalobos calls for rejecting communism, which he identifies with the Stalinist anticommunist regimes of Eastern Europe and the former USSR. "We should correct the idea that socialism is the elimination of private property, the market, or opposition," he said.

"In this framework it is correct to affirm that to enrich oneself is licit and contributes to progress," Villalobos continued. "These changes in revolutionary thinking imply the rescue of family values, property, the nation, religion, individual liberties, respect for nature, democracy, etc."

Asked about a socialist perspective, Diaz responded, "It is still good to dream and not forget utopia."

## Land reform and workers struggles

Passing through Nacaspilo was José Rolando Rodríguez of the Land Verification Commission charged with making an inventory of the 4,600 properties ranging from a few dozen to hundreds of acres, which the FMLN proposes be redistributed.

According to the accords, a three-part agrarian reform will distribute plots of 3.5 to 12 acres of land to 7,500 combatants of the FMLN, 25,000 of its supporters and 15,000 former government soldiers. A total of 407,000 acres is to be given out. All state properties exceeding 245 hectares [1 hectare = 2.47 acres] are to be distributed and private landlords who volunteer will have their land purchased for redistribution. Rodríguez reported that those with poorer quality land are willing to sell at the government offer. However, the better land belongs to big landlords who are demanding a higher price.

There are some 260,000 families without land in a country of some five million people. Two percent of the population controls 60 percent of the arable land.

In early 1991 there were some 48 land occupations by peasants. On October 22 this year, the national leadership of the FMLN — in response to demands by the landlords and the government — issued a statement calling on peasants to cease land occupations in order to facilitate the fulfillment of the accords.

The FMLN considers that strikes, as well as factory and land occupations, are obstacles to forcing the government to fulfill the accords. The organization calls on workers and peasants to direct all efforts toward

"concertación" — reconciliation of all sectors of Salvadoran society. Such a reconciliation "forum," which includes union and big-business representatives, has been established ostensibly to reach agreements on labor laws and wages.

The economic situation for millions continues to worsen, however, with unemployment reaching 52 percent. Only 30 percent of those who are employed receive enough to meet their basic needs. A majority of the population lacks potable water. There is also a housing shortage. The government continues payment on the more than \$2 billion foreign debt, creating even greater hardship by forcing deep cuts in social services.

A number of protests over wages, labor laws, and privatization of state-owned companies have been called by the "Intergremial," a newly formed union coordinating body, which encompasses all union federations in El Salvador including those that had adopted progovernment positions in the past.

Humberto Centeno, a national leader of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), which encompasses a number of trade union and peasant organizations many of whose members support the FMLN, explained that they have launched a campaign to reestablish unions that were violently suppressed by the Salvadoran regime in the 1980s. The UNTS is also trying to organize at new plants. The organizing efforts have met resistance from employers and the government who have retaliated with wholesale firings and plant closings to break the unions. Some union leaders have been arrested. Union activity is increasing, however.

In September, all 600 workers were fired from the U.S.-owned Sheraton Hotel and were driven out by riot police after occupying the hotel. There was also a wildcat strike by teachers during the summer.

Three sugar refineries, among seven state-owned companies targeted for privatization, have been occupied by the workers who have withstood three attempts by the police to dislodge them.

## New openings for politics

Activities such as union organizing and public meetings, and the availability of books and other literature, represent new openings for political discussion and work, openings that had been closed off for some time.

While threats and some attacks have taken place under the guise of combating "criminal elements," there have been few murderous assaults like those that marked the previous decade. Even notorious figures such as army Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Pérez denounced recent death threats against government opponents on October 23, saying that the death squads no longer have a place in El Salvador.

Mario Ramos, a FMLN leader, reported that it is possible to bring political books into El Salvador although there is harassment and some confiscations. Books by revolutionary leaders like Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Leon Trotsky and Nelson Mandela were virtually impossible to obtain before and are in demand.

Elmer Guzmán, back in the Nacaspilo camp, plans to continue to dedicate himself to political activity. "We know that with the accords we didn't achieve all we fought for. Now we must dedicate ourselves to the political struggle," he said.

# Detroit cops indicted in killing

BY JAMES HARRIS

DETROIT — Four of the at least nine police officers involved in the brutal beating and killing of Malice Green were indicted November 16, eleven days after his murder. Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn were charged with second degree murder, a charge that can result in life imprisonment. Two other cops, Sgt. Freddie Douglas and Robert Lessnau, were charged with involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault respectively.

Nevers and Budzyn are both well known in Detroit for their record of brutality. Nicknamed "Starsky and Hutch" both have had over 25 complaints of police brutality lodged against them over the years.

Nevers's history goes back to STRESS, a decoy squad that killed 20 people in three years during the early 1970s. This unit was disbanded following mass protests.

Green, a 35-year-old laid-off steelworker who was Black, was stopped by Nevers and Budzyn after letting a friend out of his car. He was beaten to death with heavy flashlights.

To justify their actions the cops said that Green had refused to open his hand. Budzyn said he suspected Green was holding drugs. Witnesses on the scene say that all that eventually fell from Green's hand was a



# Farmers facing 'fast track to foreclosure'

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — The U.S. government has stepped up its offensive to drive tens of thousands of working farmers off their land.

More than 26,000 farmers received notices of late payment — delinquency — on debts to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) early last summer. They had 60 days to respond to the letters and file for debt restructuring. Failure to do so means forfeiture of all appeal rights and immediate foreclosure.

As of July, only 3,719 farmers out of 26,024 who received the delinquency notices had responded to the federal farm lending agency, according to an article in the October 22 issue of *Agri News*, a farm-oriented newsweekly published in Rochester, Minnesota.

The farmers who have not replied are on "the fast track to foreclosure," according to the paper.

The potential for mass foreclosures is greater than at any time since the early 1980s, the previous peak of the farm crisis, Delores Swoboda, a leader of Minnesota's family farm organization Groundswell, told the *Militant*.

Prices for farm commodities that are well below production costs, cold and rainy Midwest weather that has hampered harvesting, and increased costs for fuel and farm equipment have increased the burden on working farmers, Swoboda explained. The crisis is compounded by the slashing of federal farm price supports to \$13.9 billion a year, virtually half what it was in 1986.

In addition, the average price of farm land has gone down, from \$700 an acre in the early 1980s to \$557 today.

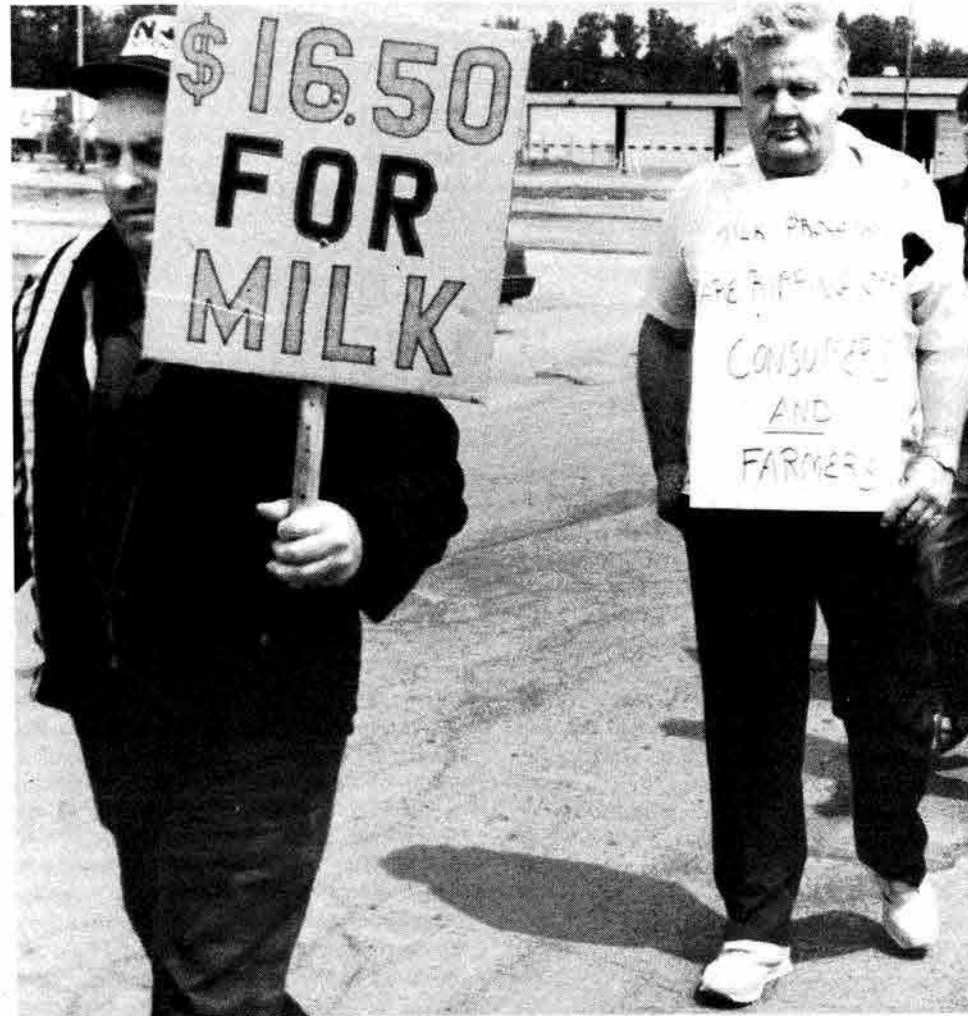
Farmers receiving the delinquency notices "are just overwhelmed," Swoboda said.

The difficult and complicated FmHA forms require help to decipher and answer, she said, but "with government funding cuts there are fewer farm advocates and those that are left are busier than ever."

The best farmers can hope for is a restructuring of their debt. "Some don't even open the envelopes [from the FmHA]," she noted. "They keep their troubles to themselves."

Swoboda helps operate a farm in Red Wing which grows corn and soy beans and raises livestock.

A local bank, she said, "which made one foreclosure in the early 1980s is set to foreclose 14 farms this month." There will be



Dairy farmers protest low milk prices and high production costs in New York state in May 1991. Today the threat of mass foreclosures of family farms is greater than at any time since the early 1980s.

well over 1,000 foreclosures in Minnesota this year, Swoboda said.

"It's the pressure of being broke, of working 20 hours a day, 365 days a year, and you and your husband live \$5,000 below the poverty line," Jean Wynot, a dairy farmer from Lawndale, North Carolina, told *Agri News*. "The American dream with me was to be a farmer," she said. "But it's my worst nightmare. We're working for nothing and going into the hole doing it."

Ralph Paige, executive director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, which represents 10,000 of the country's remaining 30,000 working farmers who are Black, explained that among members of his organization are those "whose lives

are at stake, who could lose everything they've got."

The phone of Doug Harsh, the past president of Wisconsin Farm Unity, who now volunteers to help farmers respond to the FmHA notices, has been ringing off the hook these days.

"The foreclosure process is accelerating," he told the *Militant*. "We are facing wholesale foreclosures. This is really tremendous."

Federal marshals have been informing farmers who failed to respond to the FmHA forms of sheriff's auctions of their property.

## Pathfinder Press pamphlet is popular among farm activists

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — The crisis facing farmers in the 1990s continues to spark interest in the Pathfinder pamphlet *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*.

Published earlier this year, and authored by Doug Jenness, the pamphlet has gained a hearing among working farmers and their supporters.

In July, Jenness, a member of the United

Steelworkers of America here, was interviewed about the pamphlet by Tom Rothman of the Minnesota Farm Network. Their conversation was broadcast on 57 stations in the state's rural areas.

In the summer issue of *The Land Stewardship Letter*, which serves family farmers and their supporters in the Midwest, *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* was among publications featured in the journal's "Resources" section, based on a promotional mailing sent out from the Pathfinder Bookstore here.

Several requests for the pamphlet have been generated by such publicity, including pre-paid orders from farmers in Aberdeen, South Dakota and Pulaski, Iowa, and a farm counselor from Danville, Kentucky.

In September, the pamphlet was listed in the H.W. Wilson Company's *Vertical File Index*, the industry standard monthly listing for pamphlets and reference publications. *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*, the index noted, "examines the deepening economic and social crisis facing working farmers in the U.S., the role of 'capitalist exploiters,' and argues that 'neither capitalist protectionism nor free trade offers a solution.'"

This listing has spurred library orders, according to Pathfinder's New York City office.

In October, Jenness spoke at a Militant Labor Forum here with Mark Ritchie, executive director of the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

Comments by farmers and unionists on *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* can be sent to Pathfinder Bookstore, 508 N. Snelling, St. Paul, MN, 55104.

Pathfinder

## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

DUANE STILWELL

**Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders of the worldwide struggles against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.**

*To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End* has been adopted as a textbook for a course being taught at Syracuse University.

This is the first classroom order for the new Pathfinder title. The book contains speeches given by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara to the United Nations that explain the reasons for the embargo first imposed on Cuba by the United States in 1960. This is the longest embargo in modern times. Castro and Guevara also explain why this policy of implacable hostility is doomed to fail.

The Atlanta Pathfinder Bookstore participated in the first Atlanta International Book Fair. A wide range of Pathfinder titles were sold, including two copies of *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists* — one to a former Eastern Airlines striker.

The monthly newsletter *South Africa News — United States* has an article on South African artist Dumile Feni in its October issue.

"His portrait of Nelson Mandela, on the Pathfinder Mural on New York's lower West Side, is known throughout the world," the article said. "Dumile . . . died penniless in New York on October 14, 1991. But he has not been forgotten. The newly opened Pathfinder Mural Bookstore is dedicated to Dumile's memory."

Friends of Pathfinder who are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union at Smithfield Packing in Landover, Maryland, have already sold six copies of the Spanish edition of the new Pathfinder pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, out of their goal of ten, to coworkers at the plant. The pamphlet is available in English, Spanish, and French editions.

An article titled "Young Believe Malcolm X Is Still Speaking to Them" that began on the front page of the *New York Times* in mid-November explained that "some young people . . . seem unable to read enough about the man," and that their appetite for literature has "sent parents scrambling to find obscure titles that their children demanded."

Explaining that "Malcolm X has become the No. 1 research subject" in some schools, it pointed out that many libraries cannot keep the autobiography of Malcolm X or the Pathfinder title *The Last Speeches* on the shelves.

### From Pathfinder

**FARMERS  
FACE THE  
CRISIS OF  
THE 1990s**



**Farmers Face  
the Crisis  
of the 1990s  
by Doug Jenness**

**Pamphlet 35 pp., \$3**

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The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation should attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**500 Years Since Columbus: Achievement of the Discovery Marred by Crimes of the Conquest.** A Panel Discussion. Sat. Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Translation to Spanish and French. Malcolm X: Lessons for Today. Speakers: Lavatrice Guadine, Veye-Yo (a Haitian rights group);

Jean Luc Duvall, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 6619; others to be announced. Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Translation to Spanish and French.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**The Revolutionary Ideas of Malcolm X.** A panel discussion. Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**Report Back from the Nov. 27-30 Continental Student Meeting on the North American Free**

**Trade Agreement in Guadalajara, Mexico.** Speakers: J. Berger, International Student, Trade, Environment, and Development program; Gerardo Sanchez, Socialist Workers Party. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Malcolm X: Internationalist Working-Class Fighter.** Speaker, video of Malcolm X's speeches, discussion on new Malcolm X movie. Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Almeda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**Celebrate Publication of Pathfinder's New**

**Book, February 1965: The Final Speeches.** Speaker: Mike Bodily, youth activist and member, Socialist Workers Party. Plus video showing. Sat., Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

**The Bougainville Conflict: Made in Australia?** Speakers: Moses Havini, Bougainville Support Group; Lee Walkington, member Communist League; others. Sat., Dec. 12, 6 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: (02) 281-3297.

## CANADA

### Toronto

**Eyewitness Report: The Caribbean and the Crisis of World Capitalism Today.** Speaker: John Munoru, participant in recent Caribbean trade union bookfair and conference in Trinidad, leader of Communist League of Canada. Sat., Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$5. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Auckland

**The Sealords Deal and the Fight for Maori Rights.** Sat., Nov. 28, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

### Christchurch

**The Sealords Deal and the Fight for Maori Rights.** Sat., Nov. 28, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Donation \$3. Tel: (3) 656-055.

### Wellington

**Child Abuse and Democratic Rights.** Sat., Nov. 28, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

# U.S., Europe warships blockade Yugoslavia

Continued from front page

[Serbian president Slobodan] Milosevic," said Zorica Trifunovic in a telephone interview from Belgrade November 22. Trifunovic is a founder of the Center for Antiwar Action, which has organized and participated in many protests against the carnage in Yugoslavia, focusing its fire on the role the gangster-like regimes in all the republics play in carrying out the "ethnic cleansing" campaign and other atrocities.

Trifunovic said unemployment continues to soar in Belgrade as more factories close down or give workers forced vacations at 60 percent of pay. Prices of bread, sugar, and other basic necessities have continued to climb. Inflation is more than 100 percent a month. Trifunovic said the Serbian dinar is now being exchanged for 900 German marks as compared to 100 in July.

"The effects of the embargo are most deeply felt in Macedonia," Trifunovic said, "even though sanctions have not been levied against that republic." Macedonia is sandwiched between Serbia and Greece. The Greek government, which has opposed recognition of Macedonia, has imposed an unofficial trade embargo against that former Yugoslav republic. Belgrade, hostile to the proclamation of independence by the republic's government, has also prevented shipments of essential goods to Macedonia.

## UN troops play bigger role

UN rules were recently modified to allow the so-called peace-keeping troops in Bosnia to fire not only in self-defense, but when they see potential threats to their mission. There are now almost 16,000 UN soldiers, police, and other forces in the region, with a total of more than 22,500 expected by the end of November, breaking all previous records for UN "peace-keeping" missions.

The *New York Times* criticized these moves as not going far enough in a November 20 editorial. "This resort to arms, while welcome, ought not to be confused with effective action. The belated tightening of economic sanctions is no substitute for forceful pressure to stop the bloodletting in Bosnia," it said. The *Times* editors suggest that "U.N. troops could be deployed in Kosovo and Macedonia before the war spreads southward," and warns that inaction on the part of Washington will cause still greater instability down the road.

This opinion was seconded by Democratic congressman Frank McCloskey, who called for "selective air strikes" against Serb positions in Bosnia after making a five-day trip to the Balkans.

The London *Financial Times* argued November 19 that "a much larger intervention force is needed, with a clear mandate to secure a 'safe haven' for [Muslims in Bosnia], as was done for the Kurds last year" in Iraq. The aim would not be to seize all of Bosnia, but rather to "secure a sufficient area for the Moslem population to live in safety" and stop the flight of refugees, which the *Financial Times* sees as the main crisis for western Europe.

Not all governments have been so eager to escalate the blockade. Washington has accused the governments of Greece and Italy of permitting supplies of fuel to be shipped to Serbia.

## Fighting, disease threaten refugees

The war in Bosnia continues unabated. The situation for refugees is worsening. Thousands have flooded into the town of Travnik in central Bosnia to escape fighting in the surrounding area and the northern part of the republic. Travnik, a strategic point on the road to the Bosnian capital of Sara-

jevo, has now come under heavy attack by Serbian Democratic Party forces led by Radovan Karadzic. The fall of this town would create an even bigger refugee crisis than already exists.

A major outbreak of typhoid fever has hit refugee camps in Bosnia, along with cases of other serious diseases such as water-borne hepatitis A and dysentery. In the overcrowded and unsanitary camps these diseases can spread quickly. Boiling all water and cooking all produce, which can prevent the spread of such diseases as hepatitis A, is impossible for many of the refugees.

The practice of "ethnic cleansing" has reportedly spread to areas inside Serbia itself, where about a third of the 9.6 million people are non-Serb. An estimated 60,000 to 80,000 Muslims have fled the region of Serbia known as Sandzak, fearing the kind of violence that has been meted out in areas of Bosnia and Croatia held by Serbian paramilitary groups.

A Belgrade-based group called the White Eagles, which led assaults on Muslim towns in Bosnia last spring, has been carrying out attacks in Sandzak. A Muslim human rights official in the Yugoslav government said police in Sandzak are not doing anything to stop these attacks.

Meanwhile the central leader of Sandzak's main Muslim party, Sulejman Ugljanin, has found his way onto the headlines of Belgrade newspapers by making shrill threats about Turkish troops defending Muslims. Milosevic has used these statements to intensify nationalist attacks against Sandzak Muslims.

Forces backed by the Croatian government in Zagreb are organizing similar actions in parts of Bosnia. An article in the Manchester *Guardian* described how in two days all 5,000 Muslims in Prozor, a Bosnian town of 15,000, were driven out or killed. Almost every Muslim house in the town was either burned to the ground or destroyed by shell and tank fire from the surrounding hills, by troops wearing the emblems of the HVO, a Croatian-led militia force. A

spokesman for the Croatian army declared, "Prozor is now cleansed and under control."

Yugoslav president Dobrica Cosic has called parliamentary elections for December 20. The elected legislatures will then choose presidents and prime ministers for the republics of Serbia and Montenegro, and for the federation of Yugoslavia. Cosic is urging a vote against Milosevic, and seeking to distance himself from aspects of the slaughter in Bosnia.

According to Trifunovic, Milosevic is campaigning to oust Cosic and Yugoslav prime minister Milan Panic, blaming them for the tightening of the embargo. Panic had promised in the summer that the sanctions would be lifted within 100 days of his administration. No public protests against the Milosevic regime have been organized in Belgrade in the last two months, said Trifunovic.

# Protests in Germany back asylum

Continued from back page

man parliament, had rejected any new language. The change in policy comes as German rulers seek a solution to the profound social and economic crisis that grips the country, particularly in the east.

The government campaign against asylum seekers, which scapegoats immigrants for Germany's spiraling economic decline, has opened the way for violent attacks by rightist forces. The German rulers blame the 500,000 asylum seekers that have arrived this year for the country's problems, though less than five percent are ultimately granted asylum. "Let's not wait until the immigration problem creates new political majorities that we can no longer influence," said SPD leader Björn Engholm at the congress.

The proposed changes the congress endorsed include a measure that would allow Germany to turn away any refugees that come from "safe countries," where allegedly no persecution exists.

The SPD also called for the right to citizen-

ship for the six million immigrants who already live in Germany, coupled with new restrictions on those entering the country now.

German government officials have said that SPD congress decisions mean that talks between the coalition of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union and Free Democratic Party, and the SPD can begin soon.

The SPD also decided at its congress to end its opposition to the use of German troops in other countries. Delegates agreed that the Bundeswehr, the German army, should play a backup role in UN "humanitarian relief operations."

Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, has proposed that the German army be deployed in any crisis in the world if it operated within the guidelines of a UN Security Council resolution and had the agreement of both sides of the conflict.

*Luko Willms reporting from Bonn and John Cox reporting from Berlin contributed to this article.*

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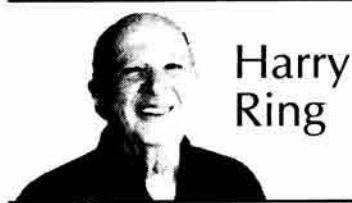
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**Drive safely** — Ford and GM are recalling a half million cars and



Harry Ring

trucks. Problems include fuel leaks, power seats prone to overheat and short circuit, and automatic control cables that can separate and keep cars from shifting into the right gear.

**The Land of Promise** — Los Angeles County, an industrial cen-

ter, has a population of some 9 million and a jobless rate just under 10 percent. With that, there are now 1.5 million people receiving welfare, a half-million jump from a year ago. The number of people on welfare has increased for 43 consecutive months.

**Gets them to school on time** — If the youngster's tired of skateboards, check out Destec's little red wagon, with a modest-sized engine, \$3,500. Or the Baby Benz with a fiberglass body and speeds of 15-18 miles per hour. Price is unspecified but reportedly rivals the adult size.

**First things first** — Since the sleeping pill Halcion was introduced in 1982, more than 2,000

cases of adverse affects have been reported to the feds, including 49 homicides and attempted homicides. Faced with a slew of law suits, the manufacturer, Upjohn, is hanging tough in marketing Halcion. And understandably so. Made in Puerto Rico, the pill costs a dime for every dollar of sales.

**They were bankers?** — In the New York area, a Wells Fargo armored truck hit a bump and two bags of cash popped out, scattering \$311,000. Wells Fargo employees and cops reportedly retrieved about \$3,500, with the rest going to lucky passersby. Snarled a Wells Fargo manager: "It was like throwing out a piece of meat to sharks. People were just grabbing money from

each other."

**Not bad** — We've long suspected that the one place the feds apply affirmative action is in probing malfeasance by government jobholders — a relatively high percentage of those targeted seem to be Black or Latino. But we were impressed by one point in the AP report on the influence-peddling charge against U.S. Treasurer Catalina Vázquez Villapando: "Largely ceremonial, the job pays \$112,300."

**Is that an insult or a compliment?** — Responding to Washington's threat to impose a 200 percent tariff on French white wine, France's agriculture minister declared "The Americans are neither ethical nor

moral. They are just doing business."

**Love those children** — "It's not fair to say the companies view kids as markets to be tapped. People in this industry are sensitive to the special needs that childhood poses." — The editor of *Marketing to Kids Report*, commenting on the estimated \$6.8 billion advertisers spend to peddle their products to children.

**Assertiveness training** — "It's something that we at Hyatt call the nag factor." — A Hyatt hotel exec on the mail they send children describing the free gifts they'll get if their family stays more often at a Hyatt.

## UNITA rejects Angola vote, launches new attacks

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Antigovernment forces in Angola have stepped up attacks on the capital and other cities around the country in recent weeks. The heaviest fighting so far occurred in Luanda, the capital, at the beginning of November. Some 1,000 people were killed.

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA, resumed armed attacks on a number of towns after claiming that elections held September 29-30 were rigged. The United Nations declared that the vote, which UNITA lost, was generally fair.

José Eduardo dos Santos, the presidential candidate of the ruling Popular Movement

for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and current president, received 49.6 percent of the vote, according to official figures. UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi got 40.1 percent, with the rest of the vote divided among eight other parties. In the parliamentary elections the MPLA won nearly 54 percent, compared to only 30.1 percent for UNITA.

According to the law, a runoff election must be held within 30 days if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote. A second election has been postponed while negotiations take place.

Meanwhile, UNITA troops have increased their assaults. In addition to the fighting in Luanda, the city of Huambo, 300

miles southeast of the capital, was taken over by UNITA. Attacks were also reported in the cities of Benguela, Lobito and Cuito.

### Elections follow 16-year civil war

The election came one and a half years after peace accords between the government and UNITA were signed in May 1991, ending a 16-year civil war. The war began in 1975, immediately after the Angolan people won their independence from Portuguese colonialism. Backed by South Africa and the United States, UNITA carried out a guerilla war against the MPLA government that left 350,000 dead.

During the 1980s, Washington provided UNITA with weapons, including Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

South African troops were directly involved in the fighting for 13 years. In 1975, the apartheid regime launched an invasion of Angola in an attempt to turn back the people's victory against imperialism and the example it set for those struggling against the apartheid system in South Africa.

In response to a request by the Angolan government for international assistance, Cuba sent volunteer troops to that country and helped push back the invasion. Pretoria repeatedly carried out direct attacks on Angola, in addition to arming Savimbi's UNITA, until the combined Angolan and

Cuban forces were able to win a decisive military victory over the South African army at Cuito Cuanavale in March 1988. This blow to the apartheid government not only forced its withdrawal from Angola, but also helped Namibia win its independence and strengthened the democratic struggle within South Africa itself.

### Washington, Pretoria shift position

Today, in the context of the growing political and economic crisis inside South Africa, both Pretoria and Washington have shifted their position from supporting UNITA's military campaign to favoring a settlement that creates stability in Angola.

The U.S. State Department released a statement demanding "the immediate cessation of all acts of violence and all offensive military movements... leading Angola toward renewed civil war." The South African regime has taken a position in favor of a cease-fire and negotiations.

On November 14, Angolan cabinet secretary Jose Leitao said that the government was calling a meeting of all parties to form "a national unity government that would permit the country to overcome the situation it now faces." He said such a meeting would discuss scheduling a run-off election between dos Santos and Savimbi.



Angolan and Cuban troops fighting South Africa's military. The Angolan civil war lasted 16 years and claimed 350,000 lives. More than 1,000 have died in recent fighting.

## Volvo to close two factories in Sweden, 4,500 will lose jobs

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Volvo announced November 4 that it will lay off 4,500 workers, closing two of its most modern factories in Kalmar and Uddevalla.

The factory in Uddevalla, employing 800 workers, was built as a supposed experiment in teamwork. It was highly subsidized by the Social Democratic government. The plant was opened as compensation for the loss of thousands of jobs when a shipyard was closed down in the area.

Uddevalla was to become a model factory for future car production. Workers and bosses were to come together, increasing production and quality, as a small team of workers built the whole car in an environment with flowers and excellent air conditioning. A highway was built at government expense to make transportation of cars and car parts between Uddevalla and the main factory in Gothenburg easy.

Two years ago Saab, the other carmaker in Sweden, closed a similar factory in Malmö, which also was built with government backing as a compensation for the closing down of another big shipyard.

Only days after Volvo announced its recent layoffs, Saab declared another 2,300

job cuts, mainly in Trollhättan near Gothenburg. In the last four years Saab has suffered heavy losses and has laid off nearly half its work force — going from 9,800 workers to 5,000. These job cuts mean a speed up for the workers still employed.

Car sales in Sweden this year are down to their lowest level since 1958 and the traditional markets for Swedish cars in Britain and the U.S. are also depressed.

As a response to the layoffs the vice-chairman of the metalworkers union, Göran Johansson, announced a program of national unity to save the Swedish car industry — offering tax relief and subsidies to the capitalists, and promising low wage demands from the workers. "The alternative to our proposal is a wiped out industry and even higher unemployment," Johansson said.

But the employers want more — they hope that the loss of 200,000 industrial jobs in Sweden since 1990 has weakened the trade unions so much that they will be able to cut wages while imposing additional layoffs and speeding up production. As expressed by Ulf Laurin representing the employers association: "If the unions don't accept a wage freeze for 1993 we will lower the wages where possible."

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People  
December 4, 1967 Price 10c

There was an important side to the story of Pfc. John W. Guinn that received sparse coverage in the American press. Guinn is the GI mistakenly reported killed in Vietnam. He was allowed to go home to Tennessee for Thanksgiving after the Army had sent his family the body of another GI, which was buried in his place.

Scenes of Guinn's mother, tearfully greeting her son as he stepped off the plane from Vietnam, were broadcast across the nation. Ed Rabel of CBS-TV, interviewed Guinn at the airport near Elizabethton, Tenn. Guinn declared: "When my three years are up I'm coming out, and I'm not going to re-enlist. All the United States boys should be brought out."

When asked why he felt that way, Guinn answered, "Because it's no war of ours." Rabel tried to prompt him, asking, "You don't think we ought to be there?" He was answered with a decisive "No, sir!"

This typical GI, chosen by accident and given an unexpected chance to speak to the American people, said one more thing that was left out of most press reports. He said most of the GIs he knew in Vietnam agreed with him.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

December 5, 1942

No sooner do the "democracies" score a major victory in the war than an instantaneous change is noted in their politics.

War is the extension of politics, by other means. The policies pursued in a period of defeat are necessarily different from those put into effect when victory is the perspective.

Churchill permitted the British labor leaders to tell the masses that their lot would be entirely different after the war. Never again would they be subjected to the misery and suffering of the past. The defeat of Hitler was all that was necessary to usher in a brand new world. Churchill took labor into his cabinet. He himself remained pretty much silent on the social question — so long as England was under the black cloud of defeat.

The wily prime minister acted in canny fashion again when the war threatened to engross a discontented India. He called on the "leftist of the left," that man of rectitude, Sir Stafford Cripps, to allay the fears of the Indians that they might not be given their share of the democracy that was to spread all over the world.

The moment a ray of victory appeared, the moment the turn in the war came, [Churchill] could contain himself no longer.

With a great bellow he announced that he had not become prime minister to see the liquidation of the British Empire. He meant to hold on to what he had. Churchill was serving notice that he did not intend to give up India to either the Indians or the United States without a bitter struggle.

The turn in the war brought its political changes in the United States as well.

We may expect that more and more attempts to "discipline" the American working class will be made as the end of the war approaches.

The capitalists of the victorious countries will no longer need to mask their real designs under any form of dissimulation. The politics of the war will become plainer, just as in the last war.



# Stop war moves in Yugoslavia

The decision by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Western European Union to implement a full naval blockade of Yugoslavia is a major step toward military intervention by Washington, Bonn, Paris, and London. Warships belonging to these military alliances are now authorized to halt and search all merchant vessels accused of violating the United Nations trade embargo against the Yugoslav federation of Serbia and Montenegro.

Naval blockades are an act of war. The U.S.-led slaughter in Iraq in 1991 was preceded by several months of a blockade similar to the one imposed on Yugoslavia today. An oil embargo against Japan, enforced by U.S. warships, prepared the ground for the direct entry of Washington into World War II. The U.S. naval blockade of Cuba in October 1962 was one of the steps by Washington during the missile crisis that brought humanity to the brink of nuclear war. These naval blockades, far from easing tensions and offering peaceful solutions to crises, are an escalation of military conflicts.

The latest moves around the embargo reflect growing rivalries among the different imperialist powers. The German government, for example, is using involvement in Yugoslavia to justify an expanded role for its military forces, backing up Bonn's economic weight around the world. The French rulers have been pushing to build up the Western European Union as an alternative to the military dominance of NATO, which is led by Washington. Paris sees the conflict in Yugoslavia as an opening to further its aims.

These interests are what lay behind the intervention, not

any humanitarian concern. "The sanctions and the blockade bring pressure on the ordinary people," not on the Serbian government, said Zorica Trifunovic, from the Center for Antiwar Action in Belgrade, which has organized protests against the carnage in Yugoslavia. The embargo has greatly increased hardships facing working people, with unemployment and inflation soaring in Serbia.

The latest military actions, under the banner of the United Nations, also offer no solution to the millions of refugees displaced by the slaughter in Bosnia and the other former Yugoslav republics. Washington and many European governments continue to deny entry to all but a handful of the refugees, and the German government is moving to tighten immigration restrictions.

The gangster-like regimes in Serbia and Croatia foster and promote divisions along ethnic lines in their fight to carve up land and resources among themselves. But working people in that region have no interest in this slaughter and in fact have a history of struggles to overcome such national divisions.

Workers, farmers, and fighters for democratic rights around the world can help our brothers and sisters in all of the former Yugoslavia by opposing the latest war moves by Washington and other imperialist powers. Instead, what is needed is real solidarity with the Yugoslav people. Such solidarity includes actions demanding an end to sanctions, including the arms embargo, massive humanitarian aid to people in need in Bosnia, and opening the borders to all refugees from former Yugoslavia.

# Farmers lose in trade conflict

At the heart of the deepening trade conflict between European Community (EC) members and Washington, and between EC members themselves, is a battle by imperialist powers for markets and profits. Workers and farmers around the world have no interest in choosing sides in this conflict, which threatens to escalate into a full blown trade war and ultimately to shooting wars.

In the current debate, the French ruling class, using protectionist measures, is trying to defend and enlarge the amount of agricultural goods they sell on the world market. The U.S. capitalists are trying to do exactly the same thing under the banner of "free trade."

Washington is quick to establish its own barriers, however, when that will protect the profits of U.S. bosses. For example, the U.S. government "protects" GM, Ford, and Chrysler by slapping tariffs on many cars and trucks from Japan.

The rulers in both the United States and France, as well as other imperialist countries, try to convince farmers that what is good for the giant monopolies that dominate trade in grain and other farm exports, is good for the worker and the working farmer.

But the demands for "free trade" and the protectionist schemes are aimed at shoring up the rate of profit for grain monopolies, big food processors, and capitalist farmers. They do nothing for working farmers, who are squeezed by the low prices they get for their products from grain monopolies, and other food giants and the high prices they pay for the machinery, chemicals, and fuel they need to farm.

Above all, working farmers are "debt slaves." They are always in debt. In order to buy land, a new piece of machinery, or to get money for operating expenses, they must borrow against their land or their next crop. They are robbed of a huge portion of the value of the labor time they

put into producing their crops by huge interest payments. The land they farm is heavily mortgaged most of the time.

Working farmers do not have the same profit-making interests as merchandizing trusts and capitalist farmers. They are producers, not international traders, and they do not exploit wage labor. They are forced to sell their wheat, oilseeds, corn, or whatever to a local cooperative, grain elevator, or processor. The product is then no longer theirs. It becomes the property of one of the big monopolies. Two companies, Cargill and Continental, control half of all grain exported from the United States. These grain giants set the world market prices of food commodities. These prices have nothing to do with what working farmers get when they sell grain or other products.

When French farmers tried to organize cooperatives to deal directly on the international market they quickly found that they had to submit to an alliance with the Dreyfus Company, one of dominant grain barons in France.

Working farmers in both France and the United States do face a deep-going crisis. An article in this issue of the *Militant* reports that 26,000 farmers in the U.S. have received notices of late payment on debts to the Farmers Home Administration. Many of these farmers will lose their land. In France as well, tens of thousands of working farmers have been forced off their land each year.

There is a road forward for working farmers who are being crushed under the weight of the international crisis of capitalism. It is to reach out to their counterparts around the world, and to working people, who, like working farmers, are exploited by the capitalist class. Only by relying on our own strength — that of all exploited producers around the world — can we begin to organize to defend ourselves from the devastation the rulers are bringing down on us.

# Free Mark Curtis now!

At a November 17 hearing, the Iowa State Board of Parole once again refused to release union and political activist Mark Curtis. Their principal justification for keeping him in prison is that he has not gone through the Sex Offenders Treatment Program (SOTP).

Curtis, who was framed up on sexual assault and burglary charges, has already served more than four years in prison. He meets the requirements normally considered in determining whether to grant someone parole. The authorities themselves admit that his conduct and work record in prison are exemplary. He has received several offers for jobs when he is freed, and has widespread community support. At the hearing Curtis's supporters handed the parole board 225 letters asking for his release.

Curtis has explained repeatedly that he can not go through this program because he is currently appealing his case. Involvement in SOTP would require him to admit guilt. "I understand it's a Catch-22," parole member Joanne Lorence was forced to admit, noting that Curtis "can't be in the program and maintain his innocence at the same time."

The demand that Curtis enter SOTP is used to keep him in jail and amounts to an additional sentence within his sentence. Prison officials are attempting to make him "confess" to a crime he did not commit, and debase himself.

The Sex Offenders Treatment Program — like similar

drug, alcohol, and sex "therapy" prison programs that inmates are forced to go through as a condition for release — is a form of cruel and unusual punishment. These programs are not voluntary. They are not aimed at rehabilitation. They are part of the arbitrary punishment that is meted out to prisoners.

These programs, which affect thousands of inmates, trample on prisoners' constitutional right to maintain their innocence and appeal their convictions through the court system.

Last year the Montana Supreme Court ruled that prisoners convicted of sex-related crimes cannot be required to undergo therapy as a condition for release from prison if an essential part of the therapy is admission of guilt. The court based its decision on the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits increasing a defendant's sentence as a penalty for refusing to confess to a crime. On appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in early November not to issue an opinion and left the ruling intact. Some 20 other states had joined Montana in seeking to have the state court ruling overturned.

Curtis's attorneys are considering a legal challenge to SOTP. It is becoming harder and harder for Iowa authorities to use this program as a justification to deny Curtis parole and keep him in jail, as the recent parole hearing revealed. Now is the time for supporters of Curtis's fight for justice to turn up the heat, win broader support, and demand that he be freed now.

# New Zealand gov't uses alleged child abuse case to curb democratic rights

BY JOAN SHIELDS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Five child-care workers in this city have been arrested on charges of sexually abusing children in their care. The case has drawn national attention. The hysterical publicity it has generated has opened the way for the state to chip away at important democratic rights in the name of "protecting children."

On March 31, Peter Ellis, a worker at the Christchurch City Council's Civic Child-care Centre, was arrested on a charge of indecently assaulting a female child. Subsequently, 45 charges were laid against Ellis, including that he forced children at the center to eat urine and feces and to participate in "satanic rituals."

In 1991, as part of a privatization and staff-shedding drive, the Christchurch City Council had voted to sell the Civic Child-care Centre. The center had a high reputation — in November 1991 the Education Review Office gave it a glowing report. It was centrally located, and had low staff turnover. Parents of children attending the center fought the sale decision and got it reversed.

At the beginning of September the center was shut down. Workers then appealed on national television to be given clear reasons for the closure.

## More charges filed

On October 1, three female staff members, including manager Gaye Davidson, were arrested. They face three charges each of indecent assault on children and one charge each of sexual violation of children. A fourth woman, arrested on the same day, after refusing to accompany police, faces one charge of indecent assault, and one of sexual violation of children, and a further charge of performing an indecency in the center's toilets with Peter Ellis.

A number of people whose children attended the center have publicly expressed their disbelief of the charges. An informal support network for the five arrested workers has sprung up, consisting of most of the other child-care workers and some parents. Some of these people have faced harassment from the police and have been the targets of a smear campaign.

All five defendants are out on bail. Both Ellis and Davidson have received death threats. On November 8, four men broke down the door of Ellis's apartment. They attempted to beat him around the head with a length of timber, forced him to the ground, and kicked him.

Events surrounding the charges raise concerns of a witchhunt among early childhood workers, with potential to extend to teachers and other working people. Heads of some teacher unions, backed by some politicians and the government-appointed Commissioner for Children, have called for a blacklist of suspected child abusers to be sent to employers. Such a list would include people who have never been charged, let alone found guilty, of sexual assault.

The right of women workers to use child care without feeling guilty or afraid for their children's safety, and the right of men to work in child care, are under attack. The fact that Peter Ellis is gay is also being used as part of the scare campaign. The quality of care given in child care centers is being affected. Some Christchurch infants currently go home from day care with soiled underpants because workers fear a charge of sexual abuse if they wipe a toddler's bottom clean. "Everybody is only one phone call away from a charge of child sex abuse," said one child-care worker.

Broader issues are also being raised by this and other sexual abuse cases that recently reached the courts. A number of recent cases relate to alleged incidents of child abuse that occurred many years ago. Convictions have resulted that have been based solely on the testimony of the alleged victim, with no corroborating evidence or other witnesses.

The media publicity and the rumor campaign in Christchurch around the Civic Child-care Centre case is promoting the idea of trial by accusation. The right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty is being swept aside.

A depositions hearing is currently being held in Christchurch to determine whether the case should go to trial. The prosecution's case is based so far on testimony by the Social Welfare Department, by "experts" who have questioned the children, and on the screening of videotapes of the interviews themselves, in closed court and with a disclosure ban imposed. Such an approach maximizes the government's ability to stage testimony and denies the defendants the right to confront and question their accusers face to face.

## CORRECTION

In the November 27 issue of the *Militant* an error appeared in the article about the Tokyo International Book Fair on page 10. The last line of the article notes that \$12,500 worth of Pathfinder books were sold. The correct figure is \$2,500.



# Australian workers hold strike, protests

BY LINDA HARRIS  
AND RON POULSEN

MELBOURNE, Australia — Up to 150,000 unionists and supporters marched on the Victoria state parliament here November 10 to protest the newly elected state Liberal government's savage attacks on union rights, wages, and working conditions. The action was part of a 24-hour general strike in the state of Victoria.

Contingents from many different unions rallied at different starting points around the city and converged on parliament in a march that stretched for 10 large city blocks. It was the biggest demonstration in Victoria since the marches against the Vietnam War in the early 1970's.

The general strike was called by the Trades Hall Council (THC), together with the Australian Council of Trade Unions, to launch a campaign of industrial action and mass protests against the government's attacks on labor. At the rally, THC secretary John Halfpenny said, "Let the streets of Melbourne thunder with the anger of Victorian workers."

More than 800,000 workers took part in the day's work stoppage, according to union officials. The State Public Services Federation estimated that three-quarters of their members participated in the strike.

Rallies took place in 15 regional centers in Victoria as well. These were also reported to be some of the biggest demonstrations ever held. For example, 20,000 marched in Geelong, an industrial center and the second largest city in Victoria. The following day, 4,000 workers marched in Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, to protest similar attacks legislated by the Liberal government of that state.

Workers' anger was focused on Jeff Kennett, the premier of Victoria and leader of the Liberal Party.

Marchers chanted, "We want Kennett out."

Many people in the demonstration explained that this was just the beginning of the campaign. One Aboriginal public service worker said, "It's not going to end here. We have to keep on fighting."

Melbourne and other Victorian cities have been among the hardest hit by the rising unemployment and factory closures. The closure of the Nissan car plant left 2,000 workers on the street. Dissatisfaction with

the previous Labor government resulted in the election of a Liberal government.

Since the October 3 election, the Liberal government in Victoria has launched a frontal attack on workers and their unions. This is the cutting edge of the drive by Australia's rulers to restore their profit rates and compete in a world market dominated by growing trade wars.

On October 28, the Kennett government abolished the 17.5 percent holiday leave loading — a bonus on annual holiday pay won in 1974 — for state public sector workers and announced an initial cut of 7,000 jobs to take place by next June.

The government also announced big cuts in spending and increased costs for services and utilities.

The following day the Kennett government introduced new industrial legislation that would cut penalty (premium pay) rates for weekend work and severely restrict the right to strike. It would outlaw any industrial action during the life of any award or employment agreement. Strikes would have to be determined by secret ballot and police would be instructed to limit pickets to six people. Severe cuts were also made on long service leave and workers' compensation.

In the face of the planned protests, Kennett backed off on a few aspects — such as giving the bosses the power to fine workers who were late for work — but con-



Militant/David Rosenfeld

150,000 unionists and supporters rally in Melbourne

tinued the thrust of the attacks.

The unions have planned further action. A strike shut down Melbourne port the day following the general strike. A mass rally of public service workers was called for November 13.

A national day of action called by the

Australian Council of Trade Unions is to take place on November 30 with stopwork meetings and rallies across Australia.

Linda Harris is a member of the Metal and Engineering Workers Union. Ron Poulsen is a member of the Food Preserver's Union.

## Miners in Australia fight boss attacks

BY PAUL GREY  
AND BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia — One thousand miners at five mines in the southern district of New South Wales joined miners in Queensland and western New South Wales for a 48-hour strike October 22 to protest a decision of the Coal Industry Tribunal on wage rates.

Coal bosses at some underground mines reneged on the National Work Model agreement and refused to raise wages without rises in productivity. Miners at opencast mines had automatically received wage increases with the signing of the National Work Model.

The agreement, which was signed earlier this year and covers 9,000 miners, allows for "greater job flexibility," explained Bruce Watson, secretary of the Southern District of the United Mineworkers' Federation, south of Sydney.

During the strike, the employers at the South Bulli mine, which is owned by the British-based company Shell, agreed to the union demands on wage increases and the miners returned to work. Negotiations continue with the other mine owners.

The miners' strike takes place in the context of widespread layoffs. In October the North Cliff mine in the Southern District — newly opened and still in the development

stage — was shut down by the Kembla Coal and Coke Co.

The Western Mining Corp., which operates on of the world's largest nickel mines at Kambalda in western Australia, is threatening to move its operations unless it can secure union agreement to introduce 24-hour, seven-day-a-week work rosters.

London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouse stocks of nickel have soared from 3,000 tons two years ago to more than 50,000 tons in mid-October. The price of nickel on the LME is at its lowest point since February 1990.

Bob Aiken is a member of the Food Preservers' Union.

## LETTERS

### Cuba solidarity

For the first time in decades in Chicago, a rally reaching out to a broad array of forces was organized to protest the more than thirty-year unsuccessful campaign by the United States to bring Cuba to its knees by virtue of an economic blockade.

The event, "Let Cuba Be," which took place without disruption, was sponsored by The Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in Cuba and held at De Paul University, November 14. About 125 people attended the meeting.

Tsofelo Tsofetsi, a representative of the South African International Student Congress, recalled the solidarity Cuba has extended to the struggle against apartheid. She also said that the U.S. blockade was really the first step in a U.S. blockade by the imperialist world against the entire Third World. "It is a war against the working people of the world," she said.

Bill Taylor, president of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Local 507, said working people should defend the right of others "to choose their own government and working conditions."

Other speakers on the platform were Pablo Medina, Chicago chairperson of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Dr. Margaret Burroughs, founder of the Du Sable Museum of African-American History; Emma Lozano, president of Centro Sin Fronteras; and Carol Travis, president of United Auto Workers Local 719.

The featured speaker was Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areito*

magazine, published in Miami, and a founder of the Antonio Maceo Brigade. Gómez described recent work the brigade has been doing in Miami against the blockade.

John Votava  
Chicago, Illinois

### Turkish attacks on Kurds

The intensification of the struggle of the Kurdish people in Turkey for their national rights has created divisions in capitalist ruling circles on how to deal with it, which is reflected even between Prime Minister Demirel and President Özal.

There are two positions put forward: 1) continuing what amounts to a complete massacre; 2) repression along with concessions or a "political solution." The second is supported by Özal, the United States, and European Community imperialists, as well as liberals, social democrats, and the trade union bureaucracy.

It is little known that the Turkish army of 20,000 troops, tanks, and warplanes has invaded Iraq and intends to stay there. This operation shows once again the complete bankruptcy of the leadership of the Kurdish people or of bourgeois nationalism in general. The massacre by the Turkish army could not have been carried out without the collaboration of [Iraqi Kurdish leaders] Talabani and Barzani, and backed by the U.S. imperialists.

There have been a few demonstrations here, which have been



suppressed, against the army's intervention in northern Iraq. The *Militant* should champion the demand that the Turkish army stop the massacre and get out of Iraq, along with its support for the self-determination of the Kurdish people and its uncompromising principled opposition to any imperialist war against the peoples of Iraq.

Bobbis B.  
Istanbul, Turkey

### Korea Consulate protest

The November 20 issue of the *Militant* printed a photo and caption about a September 25 picket line organized by Local 11 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union to protest the union busting policies

of the new owners of the 394-room Wilshire Plaza Hotel. The new owners, the Bang family, bought the hotel from the Hyatt and then declared the existing union contract null and void, discharged 175 union employees, and then selected out 25 of them to return to work. Wages for maids were cut from \$6.70 to \$5.20 an hour.

There is a lot worth protesting here. But why a protest at the South Korean Consulate instead of at the Wilshire Plaza Hotel itself? Organizing the picket line at the consulate focuses on the nationality of the capitalist carrying out the union busting drive — something that is highly irrelevant to the interests of the working class. By picketing the South Korean Consulate, the union

appeals for support from other workers on the basis of prejudice against Koreans, not on the basis of solidarity of all workers against an assault from the capitalist class. The result is to weaken the struggle, not strengthen it.

Craig Honts  
Los Angeles, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



## Yellowknife strikers in Canada fight frame-up, call for union solidarity

BY ROGER ANNIS

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories — Miners at the Royal Oak Mines gold mine here have issued an urgent appeal for support in the face of a vicious drive by the company and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada's federal police, to break their union and possibly railroad some of them to jail. The miners have been on strike since May 22. They are members of Local 4 of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW).

"This is not only our strike, this is a strike of the whole labour movement in Canada," striking miner Marvin Tremblett said in an interview. "If we go down, then it opens the door to mining and other companies to try the same thing."

The company has replaced the miners with scabs and is operating the mine with the full backing of a special RCMP strike-breaking riot squad.

The RCMP have also launched a frame-up "investigation" of the workers following an underground explosion at the mine on September 18 that killed nine of the replacement workers. They say they are treating the explosion as a case of murder. Strikers and their families have been systematically interrogated, often without lawyers present, and many have undergone lie detector tests.

Police have produced no evidence to back their claim of murder.

The union has demanded an independent inquiry into the explosion, but this has been refused by the Northwest Territories government. On the day following the explosion, the chief mining inspector for the Northwest Territories found dynamite and blasting caps in 20 improper locations in the mine.

More than 110 miners currently face charges, ranging from violations of court injunctions that severely limit their right to



Union gold miners on picket line at Royal Oak Mines in Yellowknife, NWT, Canada.

picket (the union is currently limited to five pickets per mine entrance), to criminal charges of public mischief and assault. Those miners who agree to quit their job have quickly had charges against them dropped. There have been 40 miners fired since the strike began, many following a violent provocation by the RCMP and Pinkerton Security Co. against a union rally June 14.

### Union appeals for support

The union is appealing for desperately needed financial and moral support to enable it to last "one day longer" than the company/RCMP union-busting drive.

It has already received tens of thousands of dollars from locals of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), the United Steelworkers of

America (USWA), CASAW, and other unions. CAW national president Buzz Hargrove has appealed to all locals of the CAW to join CASAW's adopt-a-family program. He has urged locals of 2,000 members or more to contribute one dollar per member per month.

As CASAW Local 4 president Harry Seeton explained in an interview, "I don't think Royal Oak expected the strike to last this long; they thought we were too small to stand up to them. The company is not able to maintain full production and they are having many problems. Morale in the mine is low. We have pressured the federal government to assign two mediators to get negotiations going again."

"So the next few months are critical for

us. It is a time to respond to the company's propaganda campaign and it must be a time of active solidarity with our cause."

Some members of the union have quit the company or returned to work, and the frame-up campaign has incited acts of violence, hate propaganda, and death threats in Yellowknife against union members. Despite this, the strike remains strong and morale among miners and their families is high. Picket lines are maintained 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the strike remains a big political issue throughout northern Canada.

### Production continues at 60 percent

The union estimates that production in the mine is at 60 percent of pre-strike levels. Some replacement workers brought in from out of town have refused to cross picket lines or have left town once their six-week work cycle was up. Many didn't know of the strike when they were hired. About half of them are living on the mine property.

Since its purchase of the mine (known as the Giant Gold Mine under previous owners) in November 1990, Royal Oak set out to weaken the union and then break a strike that it, the company, would provoke. It attacked the union's right to maintain safe working conditions, and levied countless disciplinary measures against the workers. Thirteen miners were fired between November 1990 and the beginning of the strike.

Resisting the attacks on safety conditions is a life or death question for the miners. Since 1950, there have been 16 workplace deaths in the mine. From January to April of this year alone, there were 81 accidents. In 1991, workers compensation payments at Royal Oak were 10 times higher than payments at Nerco Con, the other large gold mine in Yellowknife.

"Support for the strike among union workers in Yellowknife remains strong; if anything it's growing," explains Alex Lacroix, a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) at the Nerco Con mine. "That's because we know that we're all involved in this. If the workers at Royal Oak are defeated, that's a defeat for workers all across the country."

To send messages of support or contributions, please write to CASAW Local 4, Box 1628, Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2P2. Telephone (403) 873-4528, FAX (403) 873-5174.

Roger Annis is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1900 in Montreal.

## Protests in Germany back asylum

BY DEREK BRACEY

More than 500,000 people participated in numerous actions in Germany November 7-14 to protest racist attacks and defend the right to asylum. Demonstrators took to the streets to oppose attacks on refugee hostels, racism, anti-Semitism, and government moves to restrict asylum.

The largest actions took place in Berlin, where 350,000 marched November 8, and Bonn, where more than 100,000 demonstrated November 14.

In Berlin, political representatives of the ruling parties put themselves at the head of the antiracist action attempting to derail the protest movement. But slogans and banners defending the right to asylum actually dominated the demonstration.

On November 7, demonstrations took place in several cities, the largest being in Stuttgart with 40,000 participants. On November 9, rallies and protests throughout Germany marked the anniversary of "Kristallnacht," which was the opening of the Nazi pogrom against Jews in 1938. These actions drew parallels to the recent attacks on immigrants and refugees. The largest of these was a "Rock against Racism" concert that drew 100,000 in Cologne.

More than 600 antiracist activists from throughout Europe gathered in Berlin November 13-15 to attend the European Congress Against Racism, organized by the Party of Democratic Socialism, which ruled East Germany as the Socialist Unity Party until German reunification in 1990.

### Social Democrats favor restrictions

The Bonn protest was timed for the beginning of the Social Democratic Party

(SPD) emergency congress. Protesters demanded that Article 16 of the German constitution remain unchanged. This article, written in deference to the period of Nazi rule, states that "politically persecuted persons have the right to asylum," without any further qualifications. Up to now the government has the burden to prove that an individual is not being persecuted in his or her home country, a process that often takes years.

The SPD voted November 16 for a "faster

and simplified" process to expel asylum seekers at its emergency congress in Bonn. The decision came in the midst of a major debate on whether immigrant workers and refugees are to blame for the economic and social decay taking place in the country.

The ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party of German chancellor Helmut Kohl has been pressing for changes to the current law. Until now, however, the SPD, which controls the upper house of the Ger-

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## Convoy to Cuba crosses U.S.-Mexico border

BY NAOMI CRAINE

A caravan carrying material aid destined for Cuba crossed the border from Laredo, Texas, into Mexico on Friday, November 20. The U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment, which consists of a convoy of 44 vehicles and 104 drivers, is bringing supplies including powdered milk, medicines, and bicycles from around the United States to Cuba, in opposition to the U.S. trade embargo against the Caribbean country. Convoy drivers were permitted to leave the United States with their vehicles without an export license, which is required according to the terms of the embargo.

"The Friendshipment has been a complete victory for those who are dedicated to justice," said Tom Hansen, a Pastors for Peace coordinator. "I hope the U.S. has seen the error of its ways and will end this criminal embargo." Pastors for Peace organized the Friendshipment.

Speaking at a meeting of Nebraskans for Peace earlier in November, Elizabeth Flann-

ery, one of the four national coordinators of Pastors for Peace, said, "The Cuban people face an extremely harsh situation, which is a product of the policies of the U.S. government. The passage of the Torricelli bill tightens the stranglehold even more, and we fear that the election of Bill Clinton as president will make it worse, not better. His threats against Cuba have been to the right of George Bush."

Flannery spoke to Nebraskans for Peace as part of a two-day stop by the caravan in Omaha to gather support and materials. The participants also conducted educational activities about the impact of the U.S. blockade on the people of Cuba. From Omaha, the group traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, to gather support. Sections of the caravan passed through about 85 cities around the United States to converge in Laredo and jointly cross into Mexico.

On November 20, caravan drivers were confronted by U.S. customs officials and Laredo police as they tried to carry supplies

across the border on foot. Six participants in the Friendshipment were arrested, mostly on charges of assaulting police officers. All were subsequently released, with charges still pending against them.

Later in the day, U.S. treasury officials said that the caravan could proceed with school materials, bicycles, powdered milk, and bibles, but could not bring medicine across the border.

Customs officials confiscated \$2,000 of prescription cancer, gynecological, and asthma medicines. "The documents and photos of this confiscation," Hansen said "will be presented to the United Nations." All of the vehicles and drivers were allowed to cross into Mexico by the end of the day. The caravan is proceeding to Tampico, Mexico, where the supplies will be shipped to Cuba.

On Tuesday, November 24, the UN General Assembly is scheduled to investigate charges brought by Cuba against the U.S. blockade.